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by
Charles Mills
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THE

HISTOR

OF THE NTS

CRUSAD

FOR THE

RECOVERY AND POSSESSI

OF THE

Holy Land.

By CHARLES MILLS.

37962

——— Therefore, friends,
As far as to the Sepulchre of Christ,
(Whose soldier now, under whose blessed cross
We are impressed and engag'd to fight)
Forthwith a power of English shall we levy;
Whose arms were moulded in their mothers' wombs
To chase these Pagans, in those holy fields,
Over whose acres walk'd those blessed feet
Which, fourteen hundred years ago, were nail'd,
For our advantage, on the bitter cross.

SHAKESPEARE.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

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COMPRISING

The Life and Character of the Arabian Prophet, and Succinct Accounts of the Empires founded by the Muhammedan Arms. An Inquiry into the Theology, Morality, Laws, Literature, and Usages of the Muselmans, and a View of the Present State and Extent of the Muhammedan Religion. In 1 Vol. 8vo. price 12s. Second Edition.

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Page

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CONTENTS

TO

VOL. II.

CHAP. I.

THE THIRD CRUSADE.

Page

Effects in Europe of the failure of the [illegible] Crusade .... Louis VII. of France, and Henry II. of England, encourage holy wars.... Envoys from Palestine visit France and England.... Sensation in Europe made by the battle of Tiberias.... The Troubadours.... Germany arms.... Philip Augustus and Henry II. take the cross.... Saladin tithe.... Richard Cœur de Lion resolves on a Crusade.... March of the French and English.... Crusade of the Germans.... Death of the emperor Barbarossa.... Formation of the Teutonic order.... Events in Palestine after the loss of Jerusalem.... Siege of Acre.... Richard's course from Marseilles to Sicily.... Occurrences in Sicily .... The French sail to Acre.... Departure of Richard.... He subjugates Cyprus.... He sets sail for Acre.... His cruelty 1

CHAP. II.

CONTINUATION OF THE THIRD CRUSADE.

Arrival of the English at Acre.... Dissensions between the French and English kings.... Heroism of Richard .. Reconciliation

Page

...mation between Richard and Philip Augustus.... Surrender of Acre.... Departure of the French king.... March of the Croises from Acre to Azotus.... Richard defeats Saladin.... He marches to Jaffa.... He advances to Ramula.... Is dissuaded from marching to Jerusalem.... Falls back on Ascalon.... Fruitless negociation for peace.... Death of the marquis of Tyre.... Richard advances towards Jerusalem.... The enterprise abandoned.... Richard's heroism at Jaffa.... It leads to an honourable peace.... Courtesy of the king and the sultan.... Miscellaneous events.... Richard leaves the holy land.... Lands in Dalmatia.... His adventures in Germany.... Is taken prisoner.... His trial at Worms.... His ransom.... His return to England..... 42

CHAP. III.

THE FOURTH AND FIFTH CRUSADES.

Death and character of Saladin.... His successors.... Pope Celestine III. promotes a crusade.... It is embraced by Germany.... Adventures of the Germans in Palestine.... Fair prospect of complete success.... Ruin of the cause.... Return to Europe of some of the Germans.... And massacre of the rest at Jaffa.... Death of Henry, king of Jerusalem.... Almeric and Isabella, the new king and queen.... Character of Fulk, preacher of the fifth crusade.... Politics of the Papacy respecting the crusades.... Pope Innocent III. promotes a new crusade.... It is embraced by France and Flanders.... The barons wish for the maritime aid of Venice.... Embassy to Venice.... Treaty between the republic and the envoys.... Departure of the

Page

the Croises....Arrival at Venice....Suspension of the crusade....Subjugation of Zara....Papal politics....Grecian politics....The Croises sail to Constantinople....Attack and siege of the city....Captured by the Croises....Revolution in the government....Another revolution....The Croises renew the war....Their complete victory....Sack of Constantinople....Division of the plunder...Vengeance of the Croises on the fine arts....Election of a Latin emperor....General remarks on the empire of the Latins in Greece..... 81

CHAP. IV.

THE SIXTH CRUSADE.

State of the East during the fifth Crusade....History of Antioch....Effects in Palestine of the fifth Crusade....Death of the sovereigns of Jerusalem....Mary, the new queen....Her marriage with John de Brienne....Another Crusade instigated by Innocent III.....Letters of Innocent to Muselman princes....Character of De Courcon, preacher of the sixth Crusade....Fourth council of Lateran....Extent of the ardour for a holy war....Hungary and Lower Germany send the chief Crusaders....Criminal excesses of the Croises....Their useless pilgrimages....Defection of the king of Hungary....Fresh Crusaders....Change of crusading operations....Siege and capture of Damietta....Arrival in Egypt of English Crusaders....Events subsequent to the capture of Damietta....The Croises take the road for Cairo....The legate refuses favourable terms of peace....Consequences of his violence....Damietta surrendered to the

Page

the Muselmans.... The emperor Frederic II.... His marriage with the heiress of Jerusalem.... His disputes with the Popes.... He sails to Acre.... His friendship with the Moslems.... The recovery of the Sepulchre, and other advantageous results of his Crusade 146

CHAP. V.

THE SEVENTH AND EIGHTH CRUSADES.

Royal controversies in Palestine.... Council of Spoletto.... March of Hospitalians from London.... French lords take the cross.... State of Palestine .... Unsuccessful result of the French Crusade.... Crusade of the earl of Cornwall.... The English redeem the Sepulchre.... The Korasmians gain it from the Latins, and devastate Palestine.... Council of Lyons.... Louis IX. takes the cross.... English Crusaders.... Jealousy and treachery of the military orders.... The French sail to Cyprus .... They arrive off Damietta.... They land and capture Damietta.... Licentiousness of the French .... Arrival of the English Crusaders.... The army takes the road to Cairo.... Inability to cross the Ashmoum Canal.... They are shewn a ford.... Impetuosity of the count d'Artois.... His dispute with the Templars and William Longsword.... Dreadful events in Massoura.... Distresses of the French.... The king is made prisoner.... Is ransomed.... The French go to Acre.... New hopes by reason of the Moslem dissensions.... Those dissensions quelled.... Failure of the Crusade.... Louis returns to France..... 202

CHAP. VI.

THE LAST CRUSADE, AND THE LOSS OF THE HOLY LAND.

Page

State of Palestine after the eighth Crusade.... War between the Templars and Hospitallers.... Progress of the Mamlukes of Egypt in the conquest of Palestine.... History of Antioch.... Antioch taken by the Egyptians.... Louis IX. prepares for his second Crusade.... Crusading spirit in England.... Departure of Louis from France for the holy land.... He disembarks near Tunis.... His death.... Prince Edward leaves England.... He passes the winter in Sicily.... Arrives at Acre.... Captures Nazareth.... His cruelty.... Distresses of the English.... Edward wounded by an Assassin.... He makes peace with the Mamlukes, and returns to England.... Vain effort of Gregory IX. for a new Crusade.... Council of Lyons.... Further progress of the Mamlukes.... Last siege of Acre, and total loss of Palestine..... 249

CHAP. VII.

EXTINCTION OF THE CRUSADING SPIRIT. FATE OF THE MILITARY ORDERS.

State of Europe at the close of the Crusades.... Reasons of the ceasing of Crusades.... Last appearances of the crusading spirit.... King Henry IV. of England.... Harry Monmouth.... Fate of the military orders.... The Teutonic knights.... The knights of St. Lazarus.... Knights of St. John.... Imprisonment of the Templars in France.... Proceedings against

Page

against the Templars at Paris.... Process against the Templars in England.... In Germany.... In Italy.. Council at Vienne.... The order suppressed.... Confiscation of its estates.... Execution of the grand master.... Innocence of the Templars.... Causes of the suppression of the order..... 278

CHAP. VIII.

REMARKS ON THE GENERAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE CRUSADES..... 332

ERRATUM.

Page 205, last line, *for* commandatory, *read* commandery.

THE

HISTORY

OF THE

CRUSADES.

CHAP. I.

THE THIRD CRUSADE.

Effects in Europe of the failure of the second Crusade... Louis VII. of France, and Henry II. of England, encourage holy wars...Envoys from Palestine visit France and England.....Sensation in Europe made by the battle of Tiberias.....The Troubadours..... Germany arms.....Philip Augustus and Henry II. take the cross.....Saladin tythe.....Richard Cœur de Lion resolves on a Crusade.....March of the French and English.....Cruelty of the Germans... Death of the emperor Barbarossa.....Formation of the Teutonic order.....Events in Palestine after the loss of Jerusalem.....Siege of Acre.....Richard's course from Marseilles to Sicily.....Occurrences in Sicily.....The French sail to Acre.....Departure of Richard...He subjugates Cyprus...He sets sail for Acre.....His cruelty.

Effects of the failure of the second Crusade.

EUROPE rang with invectives against the holy Bernard, when the thousands of men whom his eloquence and miracles had rouzed to arms perished in the rocks of Cilicia. A general or a

CHAP. I. statesman would have pointed out errors in the policy or conduct of the Crusaders: but the preacher sheltered himself under the usual defence of impostors, and declared that the sins of the people had merited divine punishment, and that the men of his day resembled in morals the Hebrews of old who perished in the journey from Egypt to the promised land.* This language was justly felt to be cruel and insulting: it did not exculpate the saint in the opinion of the world, and the nations of the West were not again disposed to make religious wars the common concern of Christendom. Often indeed † both fanatical and saturnine spirits fancied that Crusades were the only road to celestial favour: in other cases softer feelings and gentler principles excited that courage which stern religion had failed to rouze; for in days of chivalry, when "lovers' heaven" could only be reached by

* For some remarks of Bayle and Jortin on the conduct of St. Bernard, see note A.

† After the first conquest of the holy land, individuals and parties of people continually went thither from Europe. There were vessels of conveyance at most seaports, bearing on their sterns a flag with a red cross upon it. From motives of safety the ships commonly sailed in fleets; and for general convenience two periods of sailing were fixed—March and June. The summer passage was preferred, for the archbishop of Tyre speaks of the autumn as the time when pilgrims generally reached the holy land, p. 808.

by "sorrow's hell," the knight sometimes performed his penance, and proved his fealty, in breaking a lance with the Saracens. But popes and councils in vain attempted the insurrection of nations. The disastrous issues of the second Crusade were fresh in the minds of the people of Europe; the cypress was generally, they thought, twined with the laurel in Palestine, and public opinion no longer fixed a mark of cowardice and pusillanimity on those who did not hasten to the sacred banners. In the third council of the Lateran, which met twenty years after the return to Europe of Louis and Conrad, the policy of king Almeric was applauded; Egypt was more dreaded than Syria, and the possession of Damietta was held out as the object to which all the efforts of the Christians should tend.* The clergy called on the world to arm, but the recollection of misery was too fresh, and the decrees of the council were heard of with sullenness and discontent. Louis, however, always

Louis VII. of France, and Henry II. of England, encourage holy wars.

* Among the causes of the first Crusade we mentioned the influence of the spirit of commerce on the love of pilgrimages. That spirit was afterwards mingled with the desire of conquest, particularly in the case of the Egyptian politics. Situated between the Red Sea and the Mediterranean, Egypt was the communication between Europe and the Indies: and the possession of that country would have rendered the Europeans masters of commerce.

CHAP. I. always cherished the hope of returning to the holy land,* and of reviving his faded glory: and at length he found his wishes met by a brother sovereign. Since virtue was his policy, as well as his duty, Henry II. in the height of his disputes with Thomas a Becket, had professed great sanctity, and following the example of the French king,† he and his barons commanded that for one year a tax of two pence, and for four subsequent years a tax of a penny in the pound should be levied on the moveables of the people of England.‡ Among the deeds of virtue which washed from Henry the guilt of Becket's murder was the supporting of two hundred knights Templars in Palestine for a year, and an agreement with the Pope to go and fight the infidels in Asia, or in Spain, for thrice that time, if his holiness should require it.§ In the year 1177, Henry and Louis agreed to travel together to the holy land.‖ But the English monarch was prudent, and fond of peace, and the illness and subsequent

* Bouquet, IV. 457.

† Louis VII. had taxed his people for the second Crusade.

‡ Gervas, col. 1399. In the year 1166, Henry II. sent money to the holy land. Triveti Annales, p. 108. This last quoted writer is of but little use in the Crusades. He has not done much more than abridge Vinesauf.

§ Hoveden, p. 529.

‖ Bromton, col. 1134.

subsequent death of the French king terminated the project. CHAP. I.

The count of Tripoli, while regent of Jerusalem, endeavoured to strengthen his kingdom by new draughts of men from Europe. The importance of the embassy which he sent to the west was apparent from the dignity of the legates, for they were the patriarch of Jerusalem, and the grand masters of the Templars and Hospitallers. In the case of the patriarch, the dignity of his office rather than his moral character, was consulted. His haughtiness of temper, and his imperious passions, totally disqualified him from the office of mediator, and he was despised by the religious part of the world for associating with a woman, who, on account of the pride of her deportment, was generally known by the title of the patriarchess.* The embassadors arrived in Italy, and found the emperor Frederic Barbarossa and the Pope at Verona. His imperial majesty did not yet aspire to religious glory, and his holiness assured them he would recommend the Crusade

* Sanutus, p. 172. Bernardus, 779. Bayle (Dict. art. Heraclius) is incorrect in desiring us to distinguish the amatory patriarch from him who was embassador to Europe. There was but one patriarch of that name.

CHAP. I. to the kings of France and England. The grand master of the Templars died in Italy, and the two remaining legates proceeded to Paris. They offered the keys of the holy city and the sepulchre to Philip Augustus, but France was at that time at war with the Flemings, and the council of the young monarch would not listen to projects of Asiatic conquests. The kiss of peace, and a promise of maintenance to such of his subjects as should assume the cross, were all that the embassadors received from the French king. Their greatest hopes rested upon England, and on their arrival there they met with the deepest respect. But the parliament knew and echoed the opinion of the monarch, that it would be wiser and better for him to remain at home and defend his own kingdom, than afford his personal aid to the Latins in Palestine. The king, however, was advised to consult with Philip Augustus on the propriety of a Crusade. Henry granted his license to all his subjects for waging war with the infidels; but the patriarch was indignant at this deliberation and caution, and demanded from the monarch the presence of one of his sons at the head of an army. The request was congenial with the wishes of prince John; but his father refused; and Heraclius outraged decency

in

in expressing his indignation. He openly re- CHAP. I.
proached Henry for the murder of Thomas à Becket; and observing that the anger of the king arose, he exclaimed, "do to me, if you "will, as you did to Thomas. I shall as will- "ingly die in England by your hands, as in "Syria by the hands of the infidels; for you "are more cruel than any Saracen." The haughty and politic Henry neither replied to this railing, nor molested the person of the brutal priest.* The monarch went to France;

* While Heraclius was in England in the year 1185, he dedicated the church of St. John, Clerkenwell, and also that of the Temple in Fleet Street, into which part of London the Templars had lately removed from Holborn. After the suppression of the monasteries, the priory church and house of the Hospitallers in Clerkenwell were preserved as store-houses during the remainder of Henry VIII.'s reign. In the time of Edward VI. most of the church, with the great bell tower, was blown up by gunpowder, and the stone was employed in building Somerset House. The bell tower, says Stow, was a most curious piece of workmanship, graven, gilt, and enamelled, to the great beauty of the city, and passing all others that he had ever seen. That part of the Quire which remained, and some side chapels, were repaired by cardinal Pole in Mary's time. Stow's London, edit. 1720, book 4, p. 62, 63. A Latin inscription in Saxon capital letters commemorated the dedication of the Temple church. The inscription was destroyed by the workmen who repaired the church in 1695. Dugdale in the first edition of his Originales Juridiciales, printed a copy of it; and Strype,

CHAP. I. at the summons to religion political animosities were suspended or forgotten; and the sovereigns of the two greatest nations of the west resolved that their armies should unite, and march to Palestine.* The descendants of William I. had used their influence in checking the Norman barons from following the fashion of seeking glory in the holy land:† for until time, marriages,

Strype, in his edition of Stow, has given a fac-simile. From this fac-simile a copy was made in 1810, and put up in the church by order of the Benchers of the two societies of the Inner and Middle Temple.

* Ben. Ab. 434, 437. Hoveden, 628, &c. M. Paris, 119. Bromton, col. 1142. Gervas (col. 1474, ap. x. Scrip.) says that the king gave the patriarch fifty thousand marks of silver.

† The earl of Albemarle and others went with the first Crusade, and several English noblemen accompanied Louis VII. But the cause was not national, or by any means general. The cross-legged figures on sepulchral monuments are not of an earlier date than the reign of Stephen. The fashion survived the holy wars for some years. That those figures represented knights Templars is a notion long since exploded. It has been supposed that they were not only of people who went to Palestine as soldiers or pilgrims; but of those who vowed to go, or who contributed to the expence of the Crusades. The supposition is in some degree warranted by the fact, that there are instances of women in this singular posture on monumental remains. The fashion of cross-legged figures on tombs, appears to have been pretty much confined to England.

marriages, and successions had cemented the English and their conquerors, the sword of terror and rule could not be sheathed.* In the reign of Henry II. however, the amalgamation was complete; and the people of England were encouraged by their monarch to think and act like their continental neighbours. Accordingly, when the crusade was preached, thousands of men answered the call, and the holy theme was revered in every part of the English dominions.

Sensation in Europe, made by the battle of Tiberias.

While fanaticism was rekindling the torch of religious war, news arrived in the west of the fall of Jerusalem into the hands of the infidels. The event was felt as a calamity from one end of Europe to the other; and the judgments of God brought grief and consternation to the breast of every man. Nothing could exceed the terror which seized the court of Rome. In the moment of weakness and humiliation, the cardinals acknowledged the dignity and the force of virtue. They resolved to take no bribes in

* William Rufus, too, in whose reign the holy wars commenced, was notoriously irreligious. He professed, indeed, to respect the soldiers of Christ: but that respect had no influence on his conduct; for on one occasion he plainly told a crusading Norman baron that he would seize his estate during his journey to the holy land. Ordericus Vitalis, p. 769.

CHAP. I. in the administration of justice, to abstain from all luxury of living and splendour of dress, to go to Jerusalem with the scrip and staff of simple pilgrims, and never to ride on horseback while the ground of their Saviour was trodden under the feet of the pagans.* Pope Urban III. died about this period; and his death, like every direful event of the time, was attributed to grief at the intelligence of the Saracenian victories.† William, archbishop of Tyre, our great guide in history, was one of the messengers of the news; and his friend, Gregory VIII. successor of Urban, not only endeavoured to deprecate the wrath of Heaven, by ordaining fasting and prayer throughout Christendom, but issued a bull for a new Crusade, with the usual privileges to the Croises.‡ Gregory went to Pisa, and healed the animosities between that city and Genoa, knowing well the importance of the commercial states of Italy to the Christians in the holy wars.§

The,

* "But their passion spent itself with its own violence; "and these mariners' vows ended with the tempest." Fuller, Holy War, book 2, ch. 46.

† Hoveden, 636.

‡ Benedict. 495. Hoveden, 637—639. Neub. lib. iii. c. 21.

§ Neub. lib. 3, c. 22. This endeavour of Gregory for the restoration of peace was the last important act of his life.

He

CHAP. I.

The Troubadours.

The noise of merriment ceased in the hospitable halls of the barons; the lyre of poetry was attuned to a holy theme; and the Provençal bards sung in lofty cantos the duties of chivalry. He who once had conducted three kings to Bethlehem, had mercifully prepared a road by which even the most flagrant sinners might reach happiness. Mad foolish man, grovelling in avarice and sensuality, neglects to take the cross, and by such neglect loses at once his honour and his God. To fall in the holy land, and in behalf of the sacred cause, is preferable to a mere existence in our own country with common glory, where life is worse than death. To die in the face of the dangers which religion calls on us to confront, is to triumph over death itself, and to find the guerdon of eternal felicity. You may subdue all the kingdoms of Europe; but vain are the conquests of ambition, if you trust not in the promises, and obey not the commands of God. Alexander subdued all the earth; and the reward of his victories was a winding sheet. Oh what folly then to see the good, and to choose the evil, and to renounce, for perishable objects, that happiness which even on earth, mingles with every thought, and gladdens every moment of our lives. March, then

He died at Pisa after a reign of only two months. His successor was Pope Clement III.

CHAP. I. then to the deliverance of the holy sepulchre. Arms, honour, and chivalry, all that the world calls grand and moving, will procure for you heavenly glory and happiness. What more can kings and barons desire than, by such noble and pleasing means, to save themselves from the poisonous waters and raging flames of hell?*

Germany arms. The emperor, Frederic Barbarossa, summoned a council at Mayence, for the purpose of considering the general propriety of a new Crusade. Prelates and barons were unanimous in the wish for it, and William of Tyre, and Henry, bishop of Albano, legates of the papacy, arrived at the assembly in time to confirm and approve its holy resolve. The emperor and his son the duke of Suabia, the dukes of Austria and Moravia, and sixty-eight temporal and spiritual

* Raynouard, Choix des Poésies Originales des Troubadours, vol. ii. p. 71, &c. Paris, 1817. The Anglo Norman Troubadours were also active in the cause of religion. At the end of the histories of the dukes of Normandy (Harleian MSS. no. 1717,) is a song or canticle in praise of crusading. It was most probably written at the close of the reign of king Henry II. and by the author of the history, namely, Benedict the Norman, the rival of Wace both in literature and in the favour of the English monarch. See M. de la Rue's Essay on the Norman Poets, in the twelfth volume of the Archæologia.

lords, were fired with the same enthusiasm.* CHAP. I.
At the solicitation of the archbishop of Tyre, Philip Augustus, king of France, and Henry II. king of England, met at a place between Trie and Gisors, in Normandy, in order to deliberate on the political state of the times. The prelate of the eastern Latin church appeared, and pleaded the cause of religion before the two monarchs. So pathetic was his description of the miseries of the Latins in Syria, so touching were his reflections on those who engaged in petty national wars, when even the stones of the temple called on all people to avenge the cause of God, that Philip and Henry wept, embraced, and vowed to go together to the holy land. They received the cross from the hands of the archbishop. The count of Flanders entered into their intentions. They agreed that the French crusaders should wear red crosses, the English white ones, and the Flemish green. One opinion and one feeling influenced every breast; and, by universal consent, a tax similar every where in name and in nature was imposed on those who would not be crossed. This imposition was called the Saladin tythe; it was to last for one year; and it extended both to moveable

Feb. 1188.

P. Augustus and Henry II. take the cross.

Saladin tythe.

* Godfridi Monachi annales ap. Freheri Rer. Germ. Scrip. vol. ii. p. 348.

CHAP. I. moveable and immoveable property. The clergy and barons of Henry who were in Normandy, decreed that it should be levied in England; and when Henry returned to his English dominions, the barons responded to the wish of the Norman council. By the act which they made at Geddington, in Northamptonshire, the Saladin tenth was to be levied upon the rents and goods of the English people, both clergy and laity, Jews as well as Christians. From military weapons, and corn of the present year's growth, the tenth was not to be collected. Persons who actually assumed the cross were not only exempted, but were even allowed to take the fiscal part of their tenants' property. If the collectors of the tythe were dissatisfied with what a man offered to pay, they were authorized to appoint four or six men of his parish to make an assessment. The Crusaders too might mortgage their land for three years; and the mortgagee should receive the rents even to the prejudice of former creditors. The English council forbad the pilgrims from sensual pleasures, from all manner of gaming, and from the luxury of dressing in ermine and sables.* Henry wrote to

* Neub. lib. 3. c. 23. Hoveden, 641. M. Paris, 122. Benedictus Abbas Petroburgensis, 495, 496. Gervas, 1522. Henry extorted an immense sum from the Jews in the Christian

to the king of Hungary and the emperor of Constantinople, requesting a safe passage for his troops. The request was granted; and imperial legates arrived in England for the purpose of arranging the terms of the treaty.* CHAP. I.

Though

tian cause. Such of his subjects as could not pay were incarcerated. The king of Scotland compounded for the Saladin tenth in his kingdom, by paying Henry five thousand marks. Hoveden, 644. The Chartreux, the Cistertians, the Fontrevault, and the friars of the order of St. Lazarus, were exempt from paying the Saladin tithe: and if the princes of Europe had listened to the casuistry of the secular clergy, they would have been contented with the good wishes and prayers of the church, and not have demanded their money. Bernardus, Thes. p. 804. In England, the sums collected by the Saladin tithe, were seventy thousand pounds from the Christians, and sixty thousand pounds from the Jews. Gervas, 1529.

* Diceto, 637, &c. About the year 1188, archbishop Baldwin made a journey through Wales, for the double purpose of preaching the crusade, and of submitting the Welsh bishopricks to the see of Canterbury. He visited, also, the isle of Anglesey, and terminated his labours in Chester. His languages, both French and English, were unintelligible to the people, and his eloquence was injured by interpretation: but his miracles stamped him as the man of God, and three thousand men, well skilled in the use of lances and arrows, were prepared to march to Palestine. Giraldus Cambrensis, Itin. Cambriæ, p. 226, 12mo. 1585. The Welsh recovered from their religious fever, and very few, if any, quitted the principality.

CHAP. I.

Though ships continually sailed from England and France, bearing martial pilgrims to the holy land, the ambition and restlessness of Philip Augustus, and of Prince Richard, diverted the government and the great body of the people from the salvation of Palestine. The ignominious peace which England was compelled to make with France, and his mental agony at the rebellion and ingratitude of his sons, brought
July 1189. on the death of the English monarch.* The love of military honour inflamed the French king, and the bold, ardent, and valiant Richard Cœur de Lion had more of the warlike spirit than of the religious feelings of the age. None of the principles which originally caused the Crusades, influenced the actions of either. They little regarded who were the lords of the holy land, or whether Christianity or Islamism had the greatest sway. But as they were both inspired with the passion of fame, and as the people of Europe burned for revenge on the impious Saracens, the two monarchs felt that renown

* Henry II. was munificent in his donations to the cause of crusading. To each of the two great military orders he bequeathed five thousand marks of silver: he gave also the same sum for the general purposes of the holy land, and he was equally generous to the lazars and other hospitals in Jerusalem. Nichols's Royal Wills, p. 7, &c.

nown could be gained in Palestine alone. Their fierce spirits sought gratification in the applause of the world, and the reputation for corporeal prowess is as honourable in days of barbarism as a name for intellectual accomplishments is the ambition in times of refinement. So eager was Richard to equip a large military force, that he sold the crown lands, and offices of trust and dignity were no longer to be acquired by desert or favour. The king of Scotland obtained for ten thousand marks Richard's renunciation of the fortresses of Roxbourg and Berwick, and of the claims of England on the allegiance of Scotland.* The sheriffs and bailiffs, and all who were guilty or suspected of corruption, gave their lord large sums of money for indemnity. The virtuous Glanvil the justiciary was cast into prison. He was compelled to pay fifteen thousand pounds for his liberty; and he agreed, old as he was, to go on a perilous journey to Judea.† Others, who had resolved on a holy war, and who afterwards

 repented

* Bromton, 1167. Neub. iv. 5.

† But we learn from Newborough, that Glanville had taken the cross in Henry's reign, and was resolved to go at the time mentioned in the text, because he was disgusted with Richard's financial measures. Lib. iv. c. iv. The justiciary accompanied Baldwin in part of his Welsh journey. See the commencement of Giraldus Camb.

CHAP. I. repented of their oaths, made pecuniary sacrifices in the place of personal services.*

Oct. 1189. The count of Perche, as envoy of Philip, arrived in England with his master's requisition of Richard and his soldiers at Vezelai in the following Easter. The prelates and nobility were summoned to council at Westminster; the French peer, and the earl of Essex, pledged the honour of their respective monarchs that all the bands of Crusaders should unite at the appointed place.† Richard crossed the Channel in December, and soon after Christmas met his brother sovereign. The monarchs renewed their protestations of perpetual friendship, and swore that in case of necessity they would defend each others territories with all the warmth of self interest. If either of the princes should die during the crusade, the survivor was to use his men and money for the accomplishment of the great design. The period of departure was deferred from Easter to the ensuing Midsummer.‡ During his stay in Normandy, Richard made some singular laws for regulating the conduct of the pilgrims in their passage by sea. Murder

* M. Paris, 129. Bromton, 1175.

† M. Paris, 130.

‡ Bromton, 1170. Rigord in the fifth of Duchesne, p. 29.

Murder was to be punished by casting into the water the deceased person, with the murderer tied to him. He that drew his sword in anger should lose his hand. If a man gave another a blow, he was to be thrice immersed: an ounce of silver was the penalty for using opprobrious language. A thief was to have boiling pitch and feathers put upon his head, and was to be set on shore at the first opportunity.* CHAP. I.

Philip Augustus received the staff and scrip† at St. Denys, and Richard at Tours. They joined their forces at Vezelai; the number was computed at one hundred thousand‡ soldiers, and the march to Lyons was conducted in union and with harmony. At that city the monarchs parted; the lord of France pursued the Genoese road; his noble compeer that of Marseilles, and Sicily was named as the rendezvous.§ June 1190.

* M. Paris, 132. Hoveden, 666.

† The purse of a royal or noble pilgrim used to be magnificently adorned with golden ornaments; and also with heraldic devices, not only of the owner's family, but of every person with whom he was in any wise connected. See the engraving of the crusading purse of the earls of Brittany, in Montfaucon, Monumens François, vol. ii. p. 166.

‡ Vinesauf, i. 9.

§ For an account of the authorities for the third crusade, see note B.

CHAP. I.

Crusade of the Germans.

The heroic Frederic Barbarossa was among the first of those whose grief rose into indignation after the fall of Jerusalem. In his letters to the sacrilegious Saladin, he demanded restitution of the city, and threatened him, in the event of non-compliance, to pour into Asia all the military force of the German States. But the triumphant infidel replied, that he would oppose his Turcomans, his Bedoweens, and Syrians, to the German hordes. Tyre, Tripoli, and Antioch, he continued, were the only places which at that time belonged to the Christians, and if those cities were resigned to him, he would restore the true cross, and permit the people of the west to visit Jerusalem as pilgrims.* Germany was indignant at this haughty reply; all the powers took up arms against the man who had defied them; but in prudent remembrance of the disorders and calamities which popular impatience had occasioned in the first and second crusades, an imperial edict was issued, that no one should go who could not furnish his own viaticum for a twelvemonth.† The consecrated standards of the German princes were surrounded by innumerable hosts of Crusaders, drawn out of every class of life, from honourable knighthood down

* M. Paris, 122.

† Vinesauf, i. 19. Godef. p. 350.

down to the meanest vassalage. Their emperor conducted them from Ratisbon, their rendezvous, through the friendly Hungarian states; but when he reached the territories of the great lord of the east, he had to encounter the hostility of a violent yet timid foe. The emperor Isaac Angelus displayed both enmity and cowardice. He did not deny the Germans the liberty to purchase provisions, but in his communications with Frederic he carefully avoided giving him imperial titles; and the Greek governors were perplexed by one day receiving orders to preserve the fortifications of their towns, and at another time by commands for their destruction, lest they should become stations of the Germans.* Barbarossa marched with prudence and humanity. In his indignation at the haughtiness and duplicity of Isaac, he generally spared the people, and passed the Hellespont without having deigned to enter the

CHAP. I. April, &c. 1189.

* Bernardus, p. 804. Nicetas, p. 199. Tageno in Struve's edition of M. Freher's Rer. Germ. Scrip. 407, 410. Godef. Mon. 350, 355, and the anonymous but contemporary history of the expedition of Frederic, in Canisius, vol. iii. pars ii. p. 504, 517. Canisius modestly styled his collection, Lectiones Antiquæ. His learned editor, Basnage, has given it the more appropriate name of Thesaurus Monumentorum Ecclesiasticorum et Historicorum.

CHAP. I.

imperial city.* The people of Philadelphia behaved to the Germans with all the pride and coldness of Isaac; but so warm was the hospitality of the inhabitants of Laodicea, that Frederic poured forth in public a prayer for its prosperity, and declared that if the other Greek cities had behaved with similar kindness, he should have crossed the Grecian frontier with a sword free from the blood of the Greeks.† He entered the territories of the Musulmans in triumph, and not only defeated the Turks in a general engagement, but took Iconium. The sultan then repented of his perfidy, and with the independent emirs of Asia Minor, deprecated the further vengeance of the Germans. They continued their march with more honour and dignity than had ever accompanied the early Crusaders, but they were deprived by death of their venerable hero. It was in the spring of the year that they passed the Isaurian mountains, from which issues the small river of the Calycadnus. In this stream Frederic bathed, but his aged frame could not sustain the shock, and he was drawn out almost lifeless. His death

A. D. 1190. Death of the emperor Barbarossa.

* On the relations between the Greeks and Latins before and during the crusades, see note C.

† Nicetas, 204. Canisius, p. 517.

death* happened shortly afterwards, and though his son, the duke of Suabia, was a brave and experienced general, yet the death of the emperor so much revived the courage of the Saracens, that the course of the Christians was continually harassed. The previous victories of the Germans had cost them dreadfully dear: long marches, frequent change of climate, and occasional appearances of famine, thinned their ranks. A stop was put to their sufferings by the supplies which they received from the people of Armenia; but by that time the once proud force of Germany was reduced to a tenth of its original number.† Saladin had been compelled to withdraw most of his soldiers from Antioch, and the Germans had little difficulty in renewing a Christian government in that city. CHAP. I.

* It will not be worth while to enquire whether the emperor bathed in the Cydnus or the Calycadnus: "If he "went in to wash himself, he neither consulted with his "health nor honour. Some say, his horse foundered under "him as he passed the water; others, that he fell from him. "But these several relations, as variety of instruments, "make a doleful concert in this, that there he lost his life; "and no wonder, if the cold water quickly quenched those "few sparks of natural heat left in him at seventy years of "age." Fuller, Holy War, book iii. cap. iv.

† Hist. Hier. 1157, 1162. Herold. cap. 6 and 7. Tageno, 410, 416. Nicetas, 204, 206. Canisius, 517, 526. Godefri, Mon. p. 356. Bromton, 1165. Diceto, 655.

CHAP. I.

Formation of the Teutonic order.

In the autumn of 1190, the duke of Suabia arrived at Acre, and importance was given to the German force by the formation of a new order of knighthood. One of their countrymen had about sixty years before founded an hospital at Jerusalem for the poor male pilgrims of his nation; and his wife, emulating his charity, built a similar place for women. Private benevolence augmented the establishments, and insensibly the patrons imitated the military conduct of the knights of St. John and the Temple. The institution was ruined by the fall of Jerusalem, but it revived in another shape at the siege of Acre. In order to assist the sick and wounded of their countrymen, some soldiers of Bremen and Lubeck converted their tents, which were formed only from the sails of ships, into a temporary hospital. The number of these charitable persons was soon enlarged to forty, and they began to assume the regular appearance of a formal community. The duke of Suabia knew the benefits which the military friars had conferred upon charity and arms; the chiefs of the army applauded his design of strengthening the holy land by forming an additional military order; the bishops prepared the code; and the new cavaliers were to be guided in the performance of their charitable duties by the canons of the knights of St. John, and by the practice of the

the Templars in what regarded martial discipline. The Vatican confirmed the establishment; Pope Celestine III. gave it the rule of St. Augustine for its general law, and accorded to it the privileges which distinguished the other military fraternities. The service of the poor and sick, and the defence of the holy places, were the great objects which the Pope commanded them to regard; and their domestic economy was to be preserved by chastity and equal participation of property. They were divided into three classes, knights, priests, and serving brothers. All the members were to be Germans, and those of the first class could only be men of noble birth and extraction. The order of the Teutonic knights of the house of St. Mary in Jerusalem was their title, and their dress was a white mantle with a black cross, embroidered with gold.* CHAP. I.

Events in Palestine after the loss of Jerusalem.

While the kings of England and France were marshalling their hosts for a foreign war, the Christians in the holy land slowly recovered from their panic, and joined Lusignan. Greeks, Latins,

* James de Vitry, 1084. Sanutus, lib. iii. p. 7, c. iii. and Helyot, vol. iii. c. xvi. The first of these authors says, it pleased God to create this third order, because "a three-"fold cord is not quickly broken." Eccl. iv. 12.

CHAP. I. Latins, Syrians, Templars, and Hospitallers, emerged from their places of secresy, burning for revenge on the infidel spoliators. Security could alone be procured by conquest, and as almost all the holy land was in possession of the Saracens, the multitude of objects perplexed the choice. But Palestine, even in the brightest days of Latin history, had never been independent of Europe, and unless the sea coast were secured, the parent state could not supply its colony. Acre had opened its gates to the conqueror a few days after the battle of Tiberias, and that city, by reason of its situation and magnitude, was worthy the bravest efforts of its former lords. The sea washed its fortifications on the north and west; a noble pier defended the port from the storms and the enemy; and the city on the land side was fortified by double walls, ditches, and towers.* When Richard and

* "The single city of Acre is so decisive of the fate of "Palestine, that whoever possesses it, may easily make "himself master of the whole country. The history of the "Israelites, as well as of the Crusades, establishes this; and "the reason is, that from this port a great plain extends "all the way to the river Jordan, dividing Palestine into "two halves. In this plain have been fought most of those "decisive battles which have caused the country to change "its masters: that, for instance, against Sisera, Judges, "chap. iv.; that wherein Saul fell, 1 Sam. chap. xxxi.; and "that

and Philip Augustus reached the holy land, the siege of Acre had lasted twenty-two months. The most patient attention would be exhausted by a minute detail of the operations of that period, and a liberal curiosity will be satisfied by a notice of the chief and characteristic circumstances. So perfect was the self-security of Saladin, that he did not attempt to overwhelm the foe; and when he at length found the necessity of personally attempting the relief of his city, the force of the king of Jerusalem was appallingly numerous. The people of France and England could not wait the tardy march of their organised armies; they answered with impatience the signals of distress which Palestine hung out; indeed every country of Europe poured

CHAP. I.

Siege of Acre, Aug. 1189.

" that in which Josiah was defeated and slain, 2 Kings " xxxii. 29. It was precisely the same in the time of " the holy war; the chief scene of which was this vale, " and the city of Acre itself." Michaelis on the Mosaic Law, vol. i. p. 56. Smith's translation. G. Villani praises Acre because it was " nella frontiera del nostro " mare, e in mezzo de Soria e quasi nel mezzo del mondo " habitato, presso a Gerusalem a 70 miglia, e fontana " e porte era d'ogni mercatantia, si di Levante, come di " Ponente; e di tutte le generationi di gente del mondo " v' erano e usavano per fare mercatantia, e turcomani " v' havea di tutte le lingue del mondo, si che ella era quasi " come uno elemento del mondo "

CHAP. I. poured forth its population with disorderly rapidity, and Lusignan was at one time the commander of one hundred thousand soldiers. The Christians were encamped on the plain to the south of Acre, and the general station of Saladin was near the town and mountain of Khorouba, still further to the south. Among the bravest of the Christian lords were the count of Champagne,* the duke of Gueldres, the landgrave of Thuringia, and James d'Avesnes. Many of the clergy wore the casque and the cuirass; the archbishops of Pisa and Ravenna, the bishops of Salisbury, Beauvais, Cambray, Acre, and Bethlehem, deserved the honours of ecclesiastical knighthood; and on one occasion the valour of Baldwin, archbishop of Canterbury,† saved

* Henry I. father of the count of Champagne mentioned in the text, went twice into the east. He accompanied Louis in 1147, and, hope triumphing over experience, he went again in 1178 with Peter de Courtenay the king's brother, and other princes, on one of those numerous private crusades which drained Europe of as much money and as many men as the great national crusades cost; but which expeditions of individuals are seldom recorded in the great and general history of the times. Almost all Henry's soldiers perished in Asia Minor; and a few days after his return to France, Henry died of fatigue and illness. See L'Art de vérifier les Dates, ii. 618.

† Hist. Hier. p. 1171, in Bongarsius. The author of this history of Jerusalem praises very highly the valour of the old

saved the camp. The Christians plied the battering rams and mangonels against the walls, and they only ceased from their labour when Saladin called them to battle on the plain. The engagements were as sanguinary and obstinate as any which had marked the holy wars. If the Latins at any time prevailed, they speedily lost their advantages, by abandoning themselves to plunder, and allowing the vigilant enemy to collect his broken battalions. When the Saracens conquered, the Christians kept within the shelter of their fortified camp,* and did not again take the field till pressed to action by some new bands of Crusaders. The conflicts between the Moslems and Christians were by sea as well as by land; but the naval forces were so equally balanced, that the Latins could not finally prevent the Egyptians from succouring Acre, and Europe kept up its communications with the camp. In the last year of the siege, the deaths by famine and pestilence exceeded the destruction which former battles had

old archbishop of Canterbury. It appears that his grace supported a corps of two hundred horse soldiers and three hundred foot. His standard was inscribed with the name of Thomas à Becket.

* The Christian camp was so well fortified, that the Saracens used to say, not even a bird can enter it.

CHAP. I. had occasioned. Both armies were wasted by a swift decay, for the presence of such numbers had exhausted the Muselman as well as the Christian neighbourhood. At the siege of Acré, as well as at the old siege of Antioch, the morals of the holy warriors were as depraved as their condition was miserable. Yet an appearance of holiness pervaded the camp. Religious exercises were performed, and vice was reprehended. The Crusaders were seemingly devout, but in reality were dissolute,* and compromised for personal excesses by pharisaical scrupulosity and uncharitableness. The archbishop of Canterbury died, it is said, not of disease, but of regret at the general profligacy; but his friend the bishop of Salisbury outlived the plague, and equally active in his religious as well as in his military duties, he collected and distributed the alms of the rich. Conrad, marquis of Tyre, had joined, and afterwards left his friends, and to his departure all the miseries of the Christians from

* Thus, as has often been the case, the extreme of misery produced the effects of the extreme of luxury. Misery and wretchedness went hand in hand during the great plague at Athens. So Boccaccio describes the consequences of the pestilence at Florence, in the year 1348. Et in tanta afflittione et miseria della nostra citta, era la reverenda autorita delle leggi cosi divine come humane quasi caduta et dissoluta tutta, &c. Boccaccio, Il Decamerone, Giornata prima.

from famine were attributed. But his own principality was his most important charge, and he could not furnish provisions for his people and for the whole of the army at the same time. Disease reached and destroyed princes as well as plebeians; and when Queen Sybilla and her two young children died, Guy de Lusignan lost his principal political support. New competitors appeared for the visionary kingdom. Isabel, the sister of Sybilla, had been married at the early age of eight years to Humphry lord of Thoron; but when the warm passions of youth succeeded the indifference of infancy, the gallantry and knightly accomplishments of Conrad, marquis of Tyre, gained her affections. In the middle ages consanguinity or some canonical impediment was always discovered, when disgust or ambition urged the dissolution of the marriage contract; and when the will is resolved, the mind is not scrupulous in its choice of arguments of justification. The church terminated the union of Humphry and Isabel, and the day after the proclamation of the divorce, the bishop of Beauvais married the amorous fair one to the marquis of Tyre. As husband of the princess, Conrad claimed the honours of respect which were due to the king of Jerusalem; Humphry was too prudent to contend for an empty distinction; but Lusignan, who had once enjoyed

CHAP. I. joyed the crown, would not forego the hope of recovering it. The Christian cause was scandalised and injured by these divisions among the chiefs, but the candidates for the pageant sceptre were obliged to submit to the general opinion of the army, and reserve the decision of their claims for the judgment of the French and English monarchs.*

Richard's course from Marseilles to Sicily. 7th August, 1190.

Richard's fleet had not arrived at Marseilles at the appointed time; and so great was his impatience, that, after waiting for it only eight days he hired some galleys and put to sea.† He went to Genoa, and conferred with the French king, whose illness had kept him in that city. He then made a brief stay at Pisa, and shortly afterwards an accident which happened to his vessel compelled him to enter the Tiber. The cardinal of Ostia received him with distinction, but Richard refused his courtesy, and openly reprehended the simoniacal conduct of the court

* Vinesauf, i. 28, 29, 42, 65. Ben. Ab. Pet. 571, 574. Bohadin. cap. 52, 60, 84, 92. Bernardus, 806, &c.

† Soon afterwards the archbishop of Canterbury, the bishop of Salisbury, and Ralph de Glanville left Marseilles and went to Acre. Hoveden says that the passage between those two places might be made in fifteen days. Hoveden, 668, 672. M. Paris, 134. Bromton, 1175.

court of Rome. On the 20th of August he reached Naples, and went to the abbey of St. Januarius for the purpose of viewing the singular spectacle of the sons of Naimond, who stood in skin and bones in a cell. He made some stay in the city, and then travelled on horseback to Salernum, where he resolved to wait till he should hear of the arrival of his navy in the Mediterranean. The English fleet had been dispersed off Portugal by a violent storm, but the ships finally reached Lisbon, their crews were received with hospitality, and circumstances enabled them to pay their obligation of gratitude. The Moors of Spain and Africa were menacing Portugal, five hundred English soldiers joined the king, and marched to Santarem. Their warlike aspect awed the Saracens, and the fortunate death at this juncture of the Moorish commander broke the union of the enemy, and the country was saved. The English fleet coasted Portugal, and the southern part of Spain, and arrived at Marseilles. It then set sail for Messina, and reached that place a few days before the arrival of Philip and the French. Richard left Salernum on the 13th of September, and on the 21st reached Milcto. He then pursued his journey, accompanied only by one knight. The impetuosity of his progress was checked by his love CHAP. I.

CHAP. I.

of pleasure, and he entered a cottage because he heard that a hawk was confined in it. He seized the bird, and on his refusal to deliver it up, the peasants assailed him with clubs and stones, and one man even drew his dagger. Richard struck the caitiff with the flat part of his sword, the weapon broke, and until he could reach a neighbouring priory he was obliged to defend himself by stones.* That night he reposed in a tent near Scilla, and the next morning he assembled all the English ships, and entered the harbour of Messina with so much splendour, and such clangour of horns and trumpets, that the Sicilians and French were astonished and alarmed.† Tancred, the illegitimate son of Roger duke of Apulia, was at that period the king of the island. After the loss of the sovereignty of the northern states of Italy, the emperor Frederick Barbarossa looked with an ambitious eye on Sicily, and wished to marry his eldest son Henry to Constantia, daughter of Roger, and legitimate heiress to the throne. The marriage was celebrated in the year 1186, but Tancred continued the real monarch, for he was supported by the Norman barons, who disdained to be governed by a foreign

Occurrences in Sicily.

* Ben. Ab. Pet. 593—604. Hoveden, 668—673.

† M. Paris, 136. Hoveden, 673. Ben. Ab. Pet. 604.

reign king. Among the precautions which Tancred took for the establishing of his authority was the imprisonment of the widow of William the Good, his immediate predecessor. She was the sister of Richard king of England, but on the arrival of that monarch in Sicily, the usurper restored her to freedom. But her dowry was still withheld, and her brother was resolved to avenge her wrongs. In all his measures he was violent and unjust. He placed her in a fortress which he seized from the Sicilians, and drove out the religious inhabitants of a monastery in order that it might contain his stores.* Those circumstances, and the dissoluteness of his people, were the occasion of much altercation between the natives and the strangers† Hatred broke out into open contest; the fray was checked by some of the chief citizens; it appeared again, but Plantagenet with a few knights finally quelled it. Philip Augustus had favoured the cause of the Sicilians, and the English monarch, therefore, regarded him as an enemy; and planted his standard on the quarters

 of

* Hov. 673.

† Vinesauf II. 16, 17. Fazello says that the Messinians had seized the occasion of the English people rioting in the streets to drive them out, and shut the gates upon them.—Gl'Inglisi andavano licentiosamente vagando per la citta con molta lascivia.—Fazello, Ist. de Sic. lib. 7.

CHAP. I. of the French.* The mediation of the barons prevented a war between Philip and Richard, and the latter shewed his goodwill to his royal companion by delivering Messina to the soldiers of the military orders, till Tancred should equitably settle the claims of his sister. Peace was then concluded. Richard renounced all claims on Sicily; his nephew Arthur, duke of Britanny, was to be married to a daughter of Tancred, and the Sicilian prince agreed to equip ten gallies, and six palanders or horse transports, for the Crusaders; to pay the dowry to Richard's sister, and the legacies which William the Good had bequeathed to Henry II. of England.† Messina was given to the French king, and Richard encamped without the walls.‡ Various regulations were made for intercourse between the different nations during the winter months. Merchants were not to purchase bread or corn in the army for the purpose of resale; and the profits on their general transactions, were restricted to one denarius in ten. Gaming was permitted to the knights and clergy, to the exclusion of the rest of the army. No individual however

* Ben. A. Pet. 606—608.

† According to Roger de Hoveden the compensation for Joanna's dower was twenty thousand ounces of gold, and a like sum was the value of the legacies, 676.

‡ Neub. iv. 12.

however was to lose more than twenty shillings in one day or night.* For some time there was a frequent interchange of good offices between the French and English. Richard gave Philip several ships, and was so prodigal of his money among the soldiers, that it was commonly said, he was more bountiful in a month than his father had been in a year. But the disputes at Messina had rankled in the mind of Philip, and contemporary English historians have charged him with offering his assistance to Tancred for the expulsion of Richard. The largesses of Plantagenet, however, had gained him the friendship of the Sicilian prince. In the moment of confidence, Tancred shewed his benefactor some letters of the French king, expressive of his treacherous designs. The count of Flanders charged Philip with baseness, and the sight of the papers threw him into confusion. But recovering himself he declared that the letters were forgeries, and an impudent trick of Richard to break off his match with Alice of France. This dispute brought matters to a crisis, a new treaty was made between the two kings; the breach of a contract which Philip had contemplated with indignation he now looked upon as a matter of indifference, for after certain interchanges

CHAP. I.

* Hoveden, 675.

CHAP. I.

of money and territory; the English monarch was allowed a free choice in marriage.*

The French sail to Acre.

In the month of March 1191 Philip left Sicily, and sailed to Acre. His appearance was regarded as a divine blessing; in the moment of elation the attacks were renewed; but orders were soon given for suspending them till the arrival of Richard, and it is more rational to think that the improbability of success without him was Philip's motive, and not the specious reason that as the cause was common, the victory should be common also.† Before his departure from Sicily, Richard avowed that he would lead a life of virtue, and with all humility submitted his back to the scourges of his clergy. He was detained for a short time on account of the expected arrival of his mother Eleanor, with the princess Berengaria of Navarre, to whom he had been affianced, long before his treaty with Philip gave him liberty of marriage. About a fortnight after the departure of his rival, the English monarch set sail. In the absence of numerical

Departure of Richard.

* Bromton, 1195. Hoveden, 687, 688. Rymer, I. 54, new edit. Rigord in Duchesne, vol. V. p. 32, says that there were disputes between Richard and Philip; but that they only related to the time of sailing.

† Herold, chap. 10.

merical statements concerning the strength of his army, we can conjecture that it was formidable, from the fact that his soldiers horses and stores filled two hundred ships of various sizes. A storm dispersed his fleet, and he heard at Rhodes that two of his vessels had been stranded on the shores of Cyprus, and that the people of the island had plundered and imprisoned such of the crews as had survived shipwreck. The vessel which carried the dowager queen of Sicily and Berengaria had been refused entrance into port. Richard soon arrived off Limisso, and it is singular that so irascible a monarch should three times demand reparation. He who had wantonly violated the law of nations would not willingly remedy the wrong; the English therefore landed on the shores of Cyprus; the archers as usual preceded to clear the way; their barbed arrows fell like showers of rain on the meadows,* and supported by the heavily armed soldiers they drove the emperor and his Greeks into the interior of the island. The ruler of Cyprus was of the race of Comnenus, but he had changed his government into a kingdom. He had not courted the people by augmenting their

CHAP. I.

He subjugates Cyprus.

 privileges;

* —— quasi imber super gramina, ita cecidere sagittæ super pugnantes.—Hoveden, p. 690.

CHAP. I. privileges; and regarding Richard as their preserver, they gladly assisted him in subduing the tyrant and usurper. Isaac was taken; the king of England became lord of Cyprus; he taxed the people to the dreadful amount of the half of their moveables, and then accorded to them the rights they had enjoyed under the dominion of the Byzantine emperors. Richard reposed himself from the toil of conquest by celebrating his marriage with Berengaria, and participating in the festivities of Limisso.* But in a few weeks he roused himself to arms. His fleet left Cyprus;† a large troop ship of Saladin crossed

He sails from Cyprus.

* Hoveden, 692. Bromton, 1200. William of Newborough makes Richard stay more than two months at Cyprus. His residence there could not have been so long; for he left Sicily in April, and arrived at Acre on the 8th of June.

† Hoveden, 692. Vinesauf, p. 329. Bromton, cap. 102. The Saracenian vessel sank before the English got out much of the stores. But the Romance says,

"The king found in the dromound, sans fail,
Mickle store, and great vitail,
Many barrels full of fire gregeys;
And many thousand bow Turkeis;
Hooked arrows, and quarelles.
They found there full many barrels
Of wheat, and wine great plenty;
Gold and silver, and like daintey,
Of treasure he had not half the mound
That in the dromaund was yfound,

For

crossed his way; the light gallies surrounded and attacked her, but the lofty sides of the Turk could not be mounted. "I will crucify "all my soldiers if she should escape," exclaimed Richard. His men, more in dread of their sovereign's wrath than the swords of the foe, impelled the sharp beaks of their vessels against the enemy; some of the soldiers dived into the sea, and seized the rudder; and others came to close combat with the Saracens. In order to make the capture an unprofitable one, the emir commanded his troops to cut through the sides of their ship till the water should rush in. They then leaped on the decks of the English gallies. But the sanguinary and ungenerous Richard killed or cast overboard his defenceless enemies, or, with an avarice equally detestable, saved the commanders for the sake of their ransom. CHAP. I. His cruelty.

For it drowned in the flood,
Ere half uncharged were that good.
Ellis' Specimens of Early English Metrical Romances, vol. ii. p. 219.

CHAP. II.

CONTINUATION OF THE THIRD CRUSADE.

Arrival of the English at Acre.....Dissentions between the French and English kings.....Heroism of Richard.....Reconciliation between Richard and Philip Augustus.....Surrender of Acre.....Departure of the French king.....March of the Croises from Acre to Azotus.....Richard defeats Saladin .....He marches to Jaffa.....He advances to Ramula.....Is dissuaded from marching to Jerusalem .....Falls back on Ascalon.....Fruitless negociation for peace.....Death of the marquis of Tyre..... Richard advances towards Jerusalem.....The enterprise abandoned.....Richard's heroism at Jaffa..... It leads to an honourable peace.....Courtesy of the king and the sultan.....Miscellaneous events..... Richard leaves the holy land.....Lands in Dalmatia .....His adventures in Germany.....Is taken prisoner.....his trial at Worms.....His ransom..... His return to England.

June 8, 1191. Arrival of the English at Acre.

SHOUTS of warm and gratulatory acclamations saluted the English on their arrival at Acre. The brilliant scene before them was calculated to excite all the animating feelings of warriors. The martial youth of Europe were assembled on the plain in all the pride and pomp of chivalry. The splendid tents, the gorgeous ensigns, the glittering

glittering weapons, the armorial cognisances, displayed the varieties of individual fancy and national peculiarities. On the eminences in the distance the thick embattled squadrons of the sultan were encamped. The Mameluk Tartar was armed with his bow; the people of the higher Egypt with their flails and scourges, and the Bedoweens with their spears and small round shields. The brazen drum sounded the note of war; and the black banner of Saladin was raised in proud defiance of the crimson standard of the cross.* CHAP. II.

Dissentions between the French and English kings.

The joy with which the French regarded the English was soon changed for the bitter feelings of military envy and national hatred. The religious objects of the war appeared to be forgotten. The Genoese and Templars sided with Philip; and the Pisans and Hospitalians with Richard. The king of France prepared his soldiers and their battering engines for a vigorous and general assault on the walls of Acre; and murmured revenge when his martial competitor declined co-operation on the ground of illness.† The choicest part of the French troops marched to the walls, eager to shame the English. The garrison, as usual, struck their atabals; and the dreadful

* Vinesauf, I. 1, 2.

† See note D.

CHAP. II.

dreadful occasion of the alarm was soon communicated to Saladin. But high as was the valour of the assailants, their numbers were not adequate; and they were repulsed in every point. When Saladin, however, attempted to carry destruction into the army and camp of his baffled foes, he was driven back with loss. The French re-appeared as assailants; once again displayed their imprudent spirit; and more than one cavalier emulated the fame of the noble Alberic Clement, who had sworn that he would enter Acre or die in the effort, and who expired upon the walls. In sickness and in convalescence Richard was carried to his military engines on a mattress,* and was so active in making and using his petrariæ, that he soon destroyed half of one of the Turkish towers. He preserved his machines from the Greek fire of the city; and he rewarded his Balistarii for every stone which they removed from the walls. The ditch was filled up; the tower was completely levelled; and the English heroes, particularly the earl of Leicester

Heroism of Richard.

* The martial spirit of Saladin also rose above corporeal sufferings. Bohadin gives several instances of his firmness, particularly on one occasion, when he formed his troops in battle array, and rode about the field from morning to night, though his legs were covered with biles, and it was thought that he could only recline. Bohadin, p. 18.

Leicester* and the bishop of Salisbury, prepared to enter the breach. The conflict was close and sanguinary. The Pisans came to the assistance of the English; but the fury of the Turks was irresistible; and the walls were cleared of the enemy. The failure of the ambitious attempts of each of the monarchs at the capture of Acre without the aid of his rival, evinced the necessity of co-operation. A reconciliation in consequence was effected between Richard and Philip; and they determined that one should attack the walls, while the other guarded the camp from the approaches of Saladin.† But Acre had suffered so dreadfully from a two years' siege, that the inhabitants were reduced to the melancholy necessity of resolving to desist from defence. They sent ambassadors to the camp of their foes, offering the surrender of the city, unless a relief from Saladin should speedily arrive; and requiring free egress for themselves and property. Philip and the French barons were willing to accept these terms; but Richard terminated the negotiation, by insisting that both public and private possessions should be

Reconciliation of the kings.

* Robert Fitz Parnel accompanied king Richard from England, and became earl of Leicester, before he left France, on hearing of the death of his father in Greece, on his return from Palestine. Dugdale, Baronage, vol. i. p. 88.

† Vinesauf, III. 5—11. Hoveden, 694. Ben. Ab. 659.

CHAP. II. be delivered to the conquerors. Saladin endeavoured to infuse his own invincible spirit into the minds of his people, and revived for a moment their languid courage, by directing their hopes to succour from Egypt. The Christians continued their assaults by day and night; and so distressed were the Turks, that many of them left the city and became renegadoes. The expected aid from Cairo did not arrive; and the citizens wrung from Saladin his permission for them to capitulate. Their safety was accordingly purchased by their agreeing to deliver unto the two kings the city itself, and five hundred Christian prisoners who were in it. The true cross was to be resigned, with one thousand other captives, and two hundred knights selected by the allies from those who were in the hands of Saladin: and unless the Muselmans paid to Richard and Philip the sum of two hundred thousand pieces of gold within forty days, the inhabitants of Acre should be at the mercy of the conquerors. These conditions were assented to; and, before the city changed its lords, a proclamation was made in the French and English camps, that no one should injure or insult such of the Turks as quitted the place. The Christians entered Acre; the banners of the two kings floated on the ramparts; but precedence seems to have been given to Richard, for

Surrender of Acre. July 12, 1191.

he

he and his wife and sister inhabited the royal palace, while Philip occupied the house of the Templars.* The royal conquerors appropriated to themselves the city's store of arms and provisions. They could not refuse the justice of their soldiers' claim, founded on the principle, that those who had shared the labours should divide the reward; but payment was so long deferred, that many persons were forced by poverty to sell their military equipments, and return to Europe.† The kings were divided in opinion respecting the title to the sovereignty over Palestine. Guy of Lusignan, and the princes of Antioch and Tripoli had visited Richard in Cyprus, and the English monarch was persuaded to espouse the cause of the weak and miserable Lusignan. Conrad had shewn himself worthy of a kingdom; and though it is most probable that the love of opposition to Richard was the feeling which gained him the friendship of Philip, yet the side which the French king took was certainly that of merit. The disputes

* Vinesauf, III. 12—18. Hoveden, 694—696. Bohadin, cap. 98—114. The Arabic writers are warm in their praises of the conduct and bravery of Richard. Bohadin says that the army thought Philip the greatest sovereign in name and dignity, and Richard the wealthiest prince and ablest warrior, c. 97.

† Bened. 666.

CHAP. II.

putes were sometimes heard of during the siege; but after the capture, they raged with violence. Negotiations, however, were entered into, and mutual rights were compromised by the agreement that Lusignan should be styled king of Jerusalem, and lord of Jaffa and Ascalon; yet that if Conrad should be the survivor, he and his heirs were to have perpetual sovereignty.* The English monarch afterwards generously surrendered the isle of Cyprus to Lusignan.

Departure of the French king.

A few weeks after the capitulation of Acre, and before the time had elapsed for the performance of all the conditions of the treaty, Philip Augustus expressed his wish of returning to Europe. The French nobility attributed to him motives of selfishness; and Richard, with a mixture of seriousness and sarcasm, declared that if the French king were really ill from bodily infirmities,

* Vinesauf, III. 20. Bromton, p. 1191, 1208. Hoveden, 685, and Benedict: p. 630, give the names of most of the great persons who died at Acre. Some of them we have mentioned. Among the others those which are interesting to the English reader, are Ralph, archdeacon of Colchester, Silvester the seneschal of the archbishop of Canterbury, William earl Ferrers, Robert Scrope, of Barton, Henry Pigot, seneschal of Lord Surry, Walter Scrope, Mowbray, Talbot, and St. John. Vinesauf computes those who died during the siege of Acre at three hundred thousand. Bohadin, p. 180, doubles the number.

ties, or from dread of the enemy, he had better return to his native air; but that it would be disgraceful to leave the work of the Crusade unperformed. The English monarch, however, consented to his departure, yet, dreading the violence of his ambition, he compelled him to swear not to make war upon his allies, until at least forty days after the return of their king. The duke of Burgundy and the largest portion of the French army, it was also stipulated, were to remain in Syria under the command of Richard. Philip Augustus went to Tyre, gave to the marquis of that city his moiety, both of Acre and of the Turkish prisoners, and then set sail for Europe.* CHAP. II. July 31.

* Newborough, IV. 22. Bernardus, Thes. 811. Hoveden, 697. Vinesauf, III. 12—18. Bohadin, cap. 98 – 114. Richard resented Philip's keeping the prisoners from him. He sent the bishop of Salisbury to demand them from Conrad. The marquis would not deliver them up, until the duke of Burgundy threatened him with war. Taking his choice of the bad motives which may be attributed to Philip, Robert of Gloucester says that envy was the passion which made him wish to return to Europe.

" So that king Philip was annoy'd there at the thing,
" That there was not of him a word, but all of Richard the king,
" Vaste he let trossi,* to France for to draw,
" Sori was the king Richard to lose his felawe.

* He commanded his soldiers quickly to make ready for departure.

CHAP. II.

Richard repaired the shattered walls and houses of Acre; and the bishop of Salisbury and the rest of the clergy re-edified and consecrated the altars.* The piece of holy wood under which the Syrian Christians had so often fought, was still in the hands of the Saracens; and, from bad principle or inability, the two hundred thousand pieces of gold had not been paid to the Croises. Shortly before the expiration of the forty days, Saladin endeavoured to avert from the prisoners in Richard's hands the doom which was allotted them by the treaty in case of failure of payment. But the English king rejected with disdain his presents and courtesy, murdered all the poorer class of the Muselman prisoners, and reserved the more opulent ones for ransom.†

The lion-hearted monarch prepared for hostile operations: but it was with difficulty that the soldiers would leave the pleasures of Acre. An historian tells us that the wine in the city had already changed the complexion of the gravest Christian knights, and, for the preservation of discipline, women were prohibited from marching with the army.‡ The largesses of Richard to

* Ben: Ab: p. 665. † See note E.

‡ The city was abundant, says Vinesauf, vino peroptimo et puellis pulcherrimis: mulieres igitur frequentantes et vina,

to the duke of Austria, the count of Champagne, and others, kept them from following Philip to Europe, and Plantagenet was at the head of nearly thirty thousand French, German, and English soldiers.* These holy warriors left Acre under the glorious ensign of the cross, and marched † in a southerly direction, generally within sight of their ships, which coasted along the shores, bearing forage and provisions, and military necessaries. Clouds of Turks overhung and burst on the advancing army; the red cross knights in the van, and the military friars in the rear, frequently broke the violence of the storm; but the safety of the Crusaders was principally owing to the indissoluble firmness of their

CHAP. II.

22 August, 1191. March of the Croises from Acre to Azotus.

vina, nimis dissolute se gerebant quamplurimi, ut civitas pollueretur a luxuria insipientium, et gula inhabitantium in ea, a quorum impudentia facies sapientorum contrahebat ruborem. Ad auferandam autem hujus maculæ rubiginam spurcitiam, procuratum est de consilio, ne qua mulier exiret a civitate cum exercitu, sed remanerent in civitate, nisi tantum pedites lotrices quæ non forent oneri nec occasio peccati.

* Triveti Annales, p. 47.

† The army were sadly tormented by tarantulas. The sick people cured the bite by applying theraica to the part affected. Others (Vinesauf calls them the prudentiores) drove the vermin away by making shouts and noises of every description. Vinesauf IV. 13, and see before, vol. I. p. 240, note.

CHAP. II. their columns, and their resolute forbearance.* The army always halted at night-fall; heralds thrice cried aloud, "Save the holy sepulchre," and the soldiers, thus reminded of their duties and their object, immediately with raised hands and tearful eyes implored the pity and the aid of Heaven.† Near Azotus a general engagement could no longer be avoided by Richard. The right of his line was commanded by that heroic and hardy champion of the cross, James D'Avesnes. The duke of Burgundy, a man of doubtful virtue, headed the left; and Plantagenet himself was the stay and bulwark of the centre. The hosts of Syria and Egypt, led by Saladin, made a general and impetuous charge on their foe. The right wing of the Christians was repulsed; the left drove back the Saracens, but it was drawn by the enemy far from the

* Defensive war was so completely the object of the Crusaders, that each man was covered with pieces of cloth, united together by rings, on which he received without injury the enemy's arrows. Bohadin (who narrates this curious circumstance) adds, that he himself saw several of the Christians who had not one or two, but ten arrows adhering to their backs, and yet who marched forwards with a quiet step, and without trepidation. Bohadin, p. 189. So close did they march, that if an apple had been thrown, it must have struck either a man or a horse. Vinesauf, IV. 17.

† Vinesauf IV. 9—16.

other divisions of the army. Richard hastened with a select band to the aid of the duke of Burgundy, and Saladin, in his endeavour to strengthen his right wing, removed the weight of hostility from James D'Avesnes. No deep impression had been made on the English lines. The cavalry had often in the course of the battle, when galled by the enemy's arrows, clamoured for leave to attack; Richard was firm, cool, and steady to his purpose. But when he saw that the Turkish quivers were exhausted, and the enemy's impetuosity had led to their confusion, his trumpets sounded the charge, his infantry wheeled behind the cavalry, and the knights giving full scope to their fury rushed on their scattered foe. The personal bravery of Richard achieved wonders; his countenance, his gestures, his invocations to St. George, seconded the ardour of his troops, and the Turks were driven back with great slaughter to Azotus. The loss of the Christians, though not numerous, was severe, for James D'Avesnes perished, and his death was justly regretted by the king as the loss of a great pillar of the Christian cause.* CHAP. II. Richard defeats Saladin.

* Vinesauf IV. 17—22. Neubridge IV. 23. Hoveden, 698. Bohadin, c. 120; and also Peter Langtoft, 187—190, a writer that may be safely followed, except when he mingles his history with the fables in the romance of Richard. Trivet

CHAP. II.

The progress of Cœur de Lion was no longer molested, and he quickly arrived at Jaffa. That city was now without fortifications, for when the tide of victory turned from the Muselmans at Azotus, Saladin commanded the dismantling of all his fortresses in Palestine. It was policy to keep his enemies perpetually in the field, and to exhaust them by ceaseless skirmishes and engagements. As the road to Ascalon was open, Richard wished to press his advantages: but the spirit of faction renewed its baleful influence, and the French barons insisted on the necessity of restoring the works of Jaffa. Their opinion was in unfortunate accordance with the inclinations of an army already attenuated by incessant marching, and who thought with regret on the pleasures which had been for awhile familiarised and endeared to them at Acre. It was resolved, therefore, that Jaffa should be re-fortified. Plantagenet, alive to every duty of a general, urged the completion of the works. The soldiers, however, gradually sunk into that state of luxury and idleness, from which they had been with such difficulty recovered by Richard.

He marches to Jaffa.

The

vet says, that at the battle of Azotus seven thousand Turks and thirty-two of their emirs were slain: and that of the Christians there did not fall a tenth part of that number, nor even a tenth part of a tenth. Annales, p. 109.

The Muselmans roused themselves from the distress and panic of their late defeat at Azotus; they began to collect in the vicinity of Jaffa, and their military appearance awoke the English and French from their disgraceful sleep of licentiousness. Richard, as ardent in pleasure as in war, enjoyed the amusement of falconry, heedless of the enemy. On one occasion the royal party would have paid dearly for their temerity, if a Provençal gentleman, named William de Pratelles, had not cried aloud, "I am the king;" and by this noble lie the attention of the Saracens was drawn upon himself, while the real sovereign escaped.* Shortly afterwards, a body of Templars fell into an ambuscade of the Turks. Richard sent the earl of Leicester to the aid of the brave but exhausted knights, and promised to follow straight. Before he could buckle on his coat of steel, he heard that the enemy had triumphed. Despising all personal solicitude, and generously declaring he should not deserve the name of king if he abandoned those whom he had vowed to succour, he flew to the place of combat, plunged into the thickest of the fight, and his impetuosity received its usual CHAP. II.

 reward

* The noble Provençal was taken prisoner by the Turks. Richard was not ungrateful, for his last act in the holy land was the purchase of his deliverer's freedom.

CHAP. II.

reward of success.* The fortifications of Jaffa were at length restored, a vigorous renewal of the war was determined on, and Plantagenet declared to the Saracens that the only way of averting his wrath would be to surrender to him the kingdom of Jerusalem, as it existed in the reign of Baldwin the leper. Saladin did not reject this proposal with disdain, but made a modification of the terms, in offering to yield Palestine from the Jordan to the sea. The negotiation lasted for some time. Richard was deceived and cajoled by the presents and blandishments of Saphadin, who was the brother of Saladin, and the Christians were ashamed that their leader should be so friendly with an infidel. The barons soon saw, and compelled their royal lord to see, the artifice of the Turks, who resumed their attacks, and the negotiation was broken off. The soldiers of Richard pursued their course to Ramula; they had taken few precautions against the inclemency of the season; the winds tore up the tents, and the rains spoilt the provisions, and rusted the arms. The earl of Leicester was of especial service in preserving them from the incessant attacks of the Turks. As they approached Jerusalem, they were joined by those whom they had left at Jaffa, and every person

He advances to Ramula. Nov.

* Vinesauf, 26, 30.

person prepared for the completion of his pilgrimage in the holy city. But the Templars, Hospitallers, and Pisans, dissuaded the king from attacking Jerusalem, on the arguments, that even if it should be taken, they would immediately have to fight with the Turks in the neighbourhood; and that as soon as that great object of the religious journey, the recovery of the sepulchre, was attained, the soldiers would return to Europe, and leave the holy land to its fate.* The people, who were the objects of these suspicions of inconstancy, murmured and then clamoured at this vacillation of council; but Richard commanded a retreat, and the army fell back upon Ramula, and then continued its retrogression to Ascalon, a city of high consequence in the judgment of the Latins, because it was the link between the Turks in Jerusalem and the Turks in Egypt.† Until the return of the spring, all commerce between Ascalon and other countries was cut off, and the army endured therefore the hardships of famine, in addition to the usual severities of the climate. The impatient duke of Burgundy deserted the standard of Richard; some of the French soldiers went to Acre and Jaffa; and others

CHAP. II.

Dissuaded from marching to Jerusalem.

Falls back on Ascalon.

* Vinesauf, iv. 31, 35.

† Vinesauf, v. 1.

CHAP. II. others found a welcome reception at the court of the marquis of Tyre. But discontent gave place for a while to better feelings; and, at the solicitation of Plantagenet, most of the deserters returned to their duty. But Conrad disdained an answer to the royal summons. The walls of Ascalon* were soon repaired, for the proudest nobles and the most dignified clergy worked like the meanest of the people. The duke of Austria was the only distinguished man who was wrapped in haughty selfishness, and who could say that he was neither a carpenter nor a mason.† Before indeed the works were completed, Richard lost the aid of his French allies, who, more mercenary than chivalric, retired to Acre, because the royal coffers were exhausted, and the king could not give them their stipulated pay. Commercial jealousy, as well as military envy, obstructed the Crusades. The Genoese and Pisans made Acre the theatre of their animosities; and an appearance of dignity and disinterestedness was given to their feuds,

* The Crusaders amused themselves, also, with rebuilding Gaza. They gave it to the Templars, who had enjoyed it before the Saracenian conquest. J. de Vitry, p. 1123, in Bongarsius.

† The cause of the dispute between Richard and the duke of Austria, is mentioned in note (F).

feuds, when they fought in the name and for the interests of their respective friends, Conrad and Guy. The marquis of Tyre joined his troops to the Genoese, and the civil war would have spread through all the Christian powers, if Plantagenet had not marched from Ascalon to Acre. Conrad prudently retraced his steps, and by the address of the English king the breach between the republicans was closed. Richard endeavoured to conciliate the marquis; but the young nobleman aspired to independence and sovereign power, drew seven hundred French soldiers from Ascalon to Tyre, and allied himself with Saladin. When Richard had retired from Jerusalem, and his army became broken, Saladin had dismissed many of his troops to their families and homes; but when he heard of the defection of Conrad, he thought that the moment of active hostility was arrived, and he accordingly spread his standard, and summoned his hosts.* Richard was cool and undismayed at the military port of his enemy, but political disturbances in England demanded the presence of the monarch, and he was compelled to yield to his necessities, and solicit his generous foe to terminate the war. He declared that he required only the possession of the sacred city, and of the

CHAP. II.

March 1192. Fruitless negotiation for peace.

* Vinesauf, iv. 36, 37. v. 1, 15.

CHAP. II. the true cross. But the Muselman replied, that Jerusalem was as dear to the Moslem as to the Christian world, and that he would never be guilty of conniving at idolatry, by permitting the worship of a piece of wood. Thwarted by the religious principles of his enemies, Richard endeavoured to win upon their softer affections. He proposed a consolidation of the Christian and Muhammedan interests, the establishment of a government at Jerusalem, partly European and partly Asiatic; and these schemes of policy were to be carried into effect by the marriage of Saphadin with the widow of William king of Sicily. The Muselman princes would have acceded to these terms; but the marriage was thought to be so scandalous to religion, that the imams and the priests raised a storm of clamour, and Richard and Saladin, powerful as they were, submitted to popular opinion.* The necessity

* Bohadin, chap. 127, &c. Abulfeda, iv. 111. D'Herbelot, article Salaheddin, vol. iii. 178. In all these negotiations, the people of the two armies lived in friendly intercourse, and mingled in the tournament and dance. More than this; through the whole of the war, Saladin and Richard emulated each other as much in the reciprocation of courtesy, as in military exploits. If ever the king of England chanced to be ill, Saladin sent him presents of Damascene pears, peaches, and other fruits. The same liberal hand gave the luxury of snow in the hot seasons. Hoveden, p. 693.

necessity of Richard's return to England grew stronger, and the only cause of his delay was the choice of a military commander of the Christians. The imbecile Guy had but few partisans, and the public voice was in favour of the valiant Conrad: Richard generously overlooked the circumstance, that the prince of Tyre was his enemy, and the friend of Saladin, and consented to the public wish. But while preparations were making for the coronation, Conrad was slain by two of the Assassins. In the first moments of indignation, the French declared that Richard had instigated the murderers.* They demanded from the widow of Conrad the resignation of Tyre, but she was too politic to encounter the anger of the king. Count Henry of Champagne appeared in the midst of the tumult; he took the throne upon the invitation of the people, and, following the approved precedent, he secured himself from opposition by marrying the widow of Conrad.† Richard confirmed

CHAP. II.

Death of Conrad.

p. 693. Saladin could not but have felt some kindness for gallant warriors, whether Christians or Muselmans, if it be true, that as soon as he was old enough to bear arms, he had requested and received the honour of knighthood from a French cavalier, named Humphrey de Thoron. Hist. Hier. in Bongarsius, p. 1152. Vinesauf, book i. chap iii.

* On this subject, see note (G).

† Vinesauf, v. 16, 28.

CHAP. II. confirmed the election of the people, and the civil war was closed.* The duke of Burgundy and the count of Champagne joined Richard. Disregarding the calls from England, the king led his English and Normans to the fortress of Darum, reduced it, and gave it to the French, whose preparations for the attack had been rendered needless by the superior activity of their allies.† Some new messengers from England brought fresh accounts of the increasing power of Prince John, and the treachery of Philip Augustus. The army continued its march towards Jerusalem, and encamped in the valley of Hebron. The generals and soldiers vowed that they would not quit Palestine without having redeemed the sepulchre. Every thing wore the face of joy when this resolution was adopted; Richard participated in the feeling, and although he thought that his presence in England would be the only means of restoring affairs there, yet he professed to the duke of Burgundy, and the count of Champagne, that no solicitation from Europe should prevail with him to leave the allies until after the following Easter. Hymns and thanksgivings testified the popular joy at this resolution; the army recommenced

May. Advances towards Jerusalem.

June.

* Vinesauf, v. 35, 37.

* Vinesauf, v. 36, 38. Sanutus, 200.

menced its course; and so sure were the soldiers CHAP. II.
of a speedy accomplishment of their wishes, that they carried with them only a month's provisions. In every step of their progress they were harassed by flying parties of Saracens; on one occasion the valour of the bishop of Salisbury saved the French division of the Croises; and on another, the ever vigilant earl of Leicester recovered the caravan of stores which the Saracens had seized, on its road from Jaffa to the army.* The nearer the approach of the Christians, the greater was the terror of the Muselmans in Jerusalem; many of them prepared to leave the city, and even Saladin was alarmed for its safety.† The Crusaders were at Bethlehem; the French nobility in the council were as clamorous as the people without to press forward; but the mind of Richard vacillated, and he avowed his doubts of the policy of the measure, as his force was not adequate to a siege, and to the keeping up of communications with its stores on the coast. He proposed that they should march to Beritus, to Cairo, or Damascus; but as the barons of Syria, the Templars, and Hospitallers, had a perfect knowledge of Palestine, he thought that their decision should regulate

* Vinesauf, v. 38, 53.

† Bohadin, c. 156.

CHAP. II.

regulate the proceedings of the army. A council of twenty was accordingly appointed from the military orders, the lords of the holy land, and also the French knights. They learnt that the Turks had destroyed all the cisterns, which were within two miles of the city; the heats of summer had begun; and for these reasons it was decided that the siege of Jerusalem should be deferred, and that the army should march to some other conquest. As a general, Richard was fully aware of the impolicy of advancing against the sacred city, yet he was unable to suppress his bitter feelings of mortification at a decision which would probably blast the proud hopes that he had indulged of redeeming the sepulchre. A friend led him to a hill which commanded a view of Jerusalem; but, covering his face with a shield, he declared that he was not worthy to behold a city which he could not conquer. The French soldiers uttered invectives and complaints against the decision of the council: Cœur de Lion offered them provisions, ships, and money, if they would obey its decree, and march to Cairo: and although they acquiesced, yet as they were not zealous, Richard remained in inactivity and indecision.* Active hostility against

The enterprise abandoned.

* On the history of the circumstances respecting the deserting of the cause of the holy land, see note (H).

against the Saracens was abandoned by the Christians for the fiercer employment of civil rancour and dissentions: and if a retreat had not been commanded, the army would have been totally destroyed by Saladin. Richard could preserve but little order and discipline among the soldiers. Some retired to Jaffa, but Acre was the rendezvous of most of the army. Saladin's spies had communicated to their master the vacillations of the Crusaders' councils; and even before they had quitted the object of their armament, he had sent news of the probable turn of affairs to many of the Muselman states. Hope succeeded to despondency, vigour to relaxation, and twenty thousand horsemen and crowds of infantry were soon collected under the walls of Jerusalem. The Turks actively proceeded to avail themselves of the declining fortunes of the invaders. By the quickest marches Saladin reached Jaffa, and so vigorous was his siege of it that in a few days one of the gates was broken down, and such of the people as could not defend themselves in the great tower, or escape by sea, were destroyed. Already were the battering rams prepared for execution, when the patriarch and some French and English knights agreed to become the prisoners of Saladin, and that heavy ransoms should be fixed for the redemption of CHAP. II.

CHAP. II. the citizens, if succour did not arrive during the next day. Before the morning, however, the brave Plantagenet reached Jaffa. Abandoning the hope of rescuing the holy land from infidel subjection, he was on the point of quitting Acre, and of returning to Europe, when the precipitancy of his Moslem rival, opened again all his visions of glory and conquest. The French refused to march; but the Templars and Hospitallers, the Pisans and Genoese, the earl of Leicester and the other English nobles, vowed to save their friends. Richard and some of his troops went by sea to Jaffa; other soldiers took the land course, but were dreadfully distressed by those impediments which Saladin, in anticipation of their approach, cast in their way. Plantagenet was the first who leaped on shore, and the most active with his deadly sword. So furious was their attack, that the astonished Turks deserted the town, and when the army at a little distance saw the standard of Richard planted on the walls, they retreated some miles into the country. Their terror was changed into shame and rage when it was found that the Turkish hosts had been panic struck by a troop of five hundred men.* Saladin in the next night attempted to

Richard's heroism at Jaffa.

* Vinesauf, VI. 8–16. M. Paris, 142. Bohadin, c. 163, 164.

to regain his advantages. But the anxiously-vigi- CHAP. II.
lant Richard started from his tent armed at all points, and called his faithful friends to his side. His archers and cross-bow men formed an impenetrable phalanx; his soldiers that were on horseback (and they were only ten) fought singly like true heroes of chivalry; and when the Turks felt again the edge of the falchion, which had turned the day at Azotus, their panic was renewed. Indeed so splendid and worthy of admiration were the achievements of the *Melech Ric*, that even the brother of Saladin at one time seeing him dismounted sent him two horses as tokens of respect.* Richard's victory placed him in a commanding attitude. Instead of wishing for new battles he solicited peace; and Saladin, at length exhausted by wars, submitted to necessity. The Christian king, and the sultan of Egypt, interchanged expressions of esteem, and as the former avowed his contempt of the vulgar obligation of oaths, they only grasped each others hands in pledge of fidelity. A truce was agreed upon for three years and eight months: the fort of Ascalon was to be destroyed; but

It leads to an honourable peace.

Courtesy of the king and of the Sultan.

* Vinesauf, 20, 22, 23. Some months before the battle of Jaffa, Saphadin had shewn his respect for the military character of Richard, by obtaining from him the honour of knighthood for his (Saphadin's) son. Vinesauf, V. 6.

CHAP. II. Jaffa and Tyre, with the country between them, were to be surrendered to the Christians.* The people of the west were also at liberty to make their pilgrimages to Jerusalem, exempt from the taxes which the Saracenian princes had in former times imposed.

Miscellaneous events.

The French soldiers at Acre prepared to return to Europe; but wished first to behold the sepulchre which was so dear and sacred to the Christians. But Richard was indignant at the audacity of men who claimed the benefit of a treaty which no efforts of their own had procured. They had lost the laurel of holy warriors, and they deserved not to bear the pilgrim's palm. The rest of the army visited the hallowed places, and Saladin, alive to every honourable obligation, prevented his subjects from injuring the persons and insulting the feelings of the devout palmers. The bishop of Salisbury was treated with marked respect. The generous Curd admired valour and nobleness even in a Christian, and when the prelate arrived at Jerusalem he was invited to the royal palace. In a familiar conversation Saladin expressed his admiration of the bravery of Plantagenet, but thought

* Vinesauf, 25. 28. D'Herbelot, article Salaheddin, vol. 3. p. 178.

thought that the skill of the general did not equal the valour of the knight.* The courteous prelate complimented the Muselman by replying that there were not two such warriors in the world as the English and the Syrian monarchs. Often have we had occasion to observe the generosity of Saladin in the moment of victory. At the solicitation of the bishop he allowed establishments of Latin priests in the holy sepulchre, and in the churches of Bethlehem and Nazareth. He had pity, too, on the different barons whom his conquests had dispossessed. He gave to the lord of Sajetta a handsome town near Tyre; to Belian of Ibelin a castle, four miles from Acre; and he restored Caiphas, Cesarea, and Azotus to their respective lords. Count Henry of Champagne became master of Jaffa.† CHAP. II.

The loss of many thousand soldiers on the plains of Acre, and the bravery and conduct of the English monarch, had prevented some of the anticipated issues of the battle of Tiberias. Palestine did not become a Muselman colony; and so much of the sea coast was in the hands of

* But Saladin might have praised Richard for the steadiness with which he moved from Acre to Azotus, and his coolness and decision during the great battle.

† Vinesauf, VI. 30—36. Cont. William of Tyre, 640.

CHAP. II. the Christians, and so enfeebled were the enemy, that fresh hostilities could safely be commenced whenever Europe should again pour forth her religious fanatics, and military adventurers. Richard gained more honour in Palestine than any of the emperors of Germany and kings of France who had sought renown in foreign war: and although these distant ages may censure his conduct as unprofitable to his country, yet his actions were in unison with that spirit of the times which looked upon valour as more important than empire, and esteemed achievements in battle more highly than the consequences of victory.

25 Oct. 1192. Richard leaves the holy land.

In the month of October, Richard, with his queen, the English soldiers, and pilgrims, set sail for England. But storms, of violence uncommon even for the boisterous season of autumn, soon scattered his fleet. The people thought that Heaven had directed the elements against them, because Jerusalem was still in the hands of the infidels; and they were convinced of the justice of this condemnation, when they afterwards heard of the death of Saladin, an event, which, they thought, would have led them to the accomplishment of the object of their vows. Many of the vessels were wrecked on hostile shores, and the warriors of England,

who

who might once have bade defiance to the world, now penniless, naked, and famished, were led into Saracenic prisons. Other ships fortunately reached friendly ports, and in time returned to Britain. At the end of six weeks from his departure from Acre, Richard was off the Barbary shores, within three days sail of the port in the south of France whence he had embarked for the holy land. His misfortunes had become known, and he heard that the French lords had resolved to seize him, if he landed in their territories. The condition of his vessel forbad the hope of a safe return to England, and Germany was the only country through which he expected to escape. He purchased the maritime guidance of some pirates, and the course of his vessel was changed from Marseilles to the Adriatic. His companions were Baldwin de Betun, a priest, Anselm the chaplain, and a few Knights templars. The royal party landed at Zara.* They wished to pursue their route to the north; and accordingly one of them went to the governor of Goritia† for passports,

CHAP. II.

Lands in Dalmatia.

* The place of his landing is called, in M. Paris, Gazara. Hoveden proves that it was Zara, for he says it was in the country of Ragusa. Zara is called Jazara by the archbishop of Tyre, lib. ii. c. xxii.

† See the emperor's letter to the king of France, Hoveden, 721.

CHAP. II. passports, who, unfortunately for Richard, was nephew of the late marquis of Tyre. The messenger was desired to declare the quality of his masters. He described them as pilgrims, on their return from Jerusalem. Their names, asked the governor. "One is called Baldwin de Betun," answered the man; "and the other Hugh the merchant; and the latter has commanded me to give you a ring, as a proof of his good dispositions towards you." The governor admired the beauty and splendour of the ruby;* he was struck with the singularity of the transaction; he naturally thought that he who sent the gift could be no common person; and after weighing the circumstances in his mind, he exclaimed, "the name of the owner of this ring is not Hugh the merchant, but king Richard: tell him, however, that although I have sworn to detain returning pilgrims, yet the magnificence of this gift, and the dignity of the donor, induce me to violate the rule, and to allow your master to pass." Plantagenet heard with alarm of the discovery which his generosity had occasioned; the knowledge of the circumstance of the dispersion of his fleet was not confined to France, and every Christian monarch was prepared to seize

His adventures in Germany.

* The ring was worth three hundred besants; Richard had lately purchased three of them from a Pisan merchant.

seize as a prisoner the great champion of the cross. Richard and his friends took to their horses in the middle of the night, and the news was spread that the king of England was in Germany The fugitives were unmolested till they reached Frisak, near Saltzburgh. The governor of that country commanded one of his relations, a Norman knight, to examine all travellers. The speech and manners of Plantagenet were marked with curiosity by him, who knew the English character, and his prayers and tears produced an avowal from the king that the object of his search was discovered. Honorary and pecuniary rewards had been offered as incentives to diligence, but the generous Norman thought only of the safety of his liege lord, entreated him to fly, and presented to him a swift horse. He then returned to his master, and told him that Baldwin de Betun and his companions were the only pilgrims in the town, and the report that Richard was of the party was false and ridiculous. The governor, however, relied upon the certainty of his previous information, suspected the old knight of deceit, and issued orders for the detention of strangers. Six of the English were put into prison, but the king escaped, accompanied only by William de Stagno, and a boy who understood the German language. After travelling

CHAP. II. travelling for three days and three nights, and scarcely ever stopping for refreshments, Richard arrived at a town near Vienna. He heard that the duke of Austria was in the place, and he knew that that haughty, impetuous nobleman remembered him with feelings of hatred, because in the siege of Acre the English monarch had checked his arrogance and presumption. The fugitives were so much harassed that they could not pursue their course. The German boy was sent to the market-place in order to purchase provisions; and as he had experienced the generosity of his master, he was usually dressed with elegance and nicety. The contrast of the vulgar demeanor and the handsome clothes of the youth, attracted the attention of the people: they demanded his name and condition; and he replied, that he was the servant of a very rich merchant, who three days before had arrived in the town. The boy saw that his story was not credited, and on his return to the king he advised his immediate escape. But Richard was ill and weary, and totally unable to depart. The boy continued his visits to the market-
21st Dec. place, and for some days attracted no further notice: but on one occasion the citizens saw in his girdle a pair of such gloves as were usually worn by kings. The poor lad was immediately seized and scourged, and the threat of cutting out

out his tongue if he did not tell the truth, drew from him the secret of the real quality of his master. The Austrian soldiers immediately surrounded the house of Richard, and the king, knowing the fruitlessness of resistance, offered to resign his sword. The duke advanced and received it, and in the excess of his joy he treated him for awhile with respect.* But it was soon apparent that Plantagenet was his prisoner and not his guest.† The king of England

Taken prisoner.

* The story of Otho de Blaise, respecting the mode in which Richard was discovered, is as follows:—"The king "entered a house of public entertainment in a town near "Vienna, and, in order that no suspicion might be excited "concerning his rank, he busied himself in turning the "spit. He forgot, however, to conceal a splendid ring "which he wore on his finger. A man who had known his "person at Acre recognised him, and gave the news to the "duke." O. de Blaise, in Muratori, vol. vi. cap. 38. p. 894.

† For here though Cœur de Lion like a storm
Pour on the Saracens, and do perform
Deeds past an angel, arm'd with wrath and fire,
Ploughing whole armies up, with zealous ire,
And walled cities, while he doth defend
That cause that should all wars begin and end;
Yet when with pride, and for humane respect
The Austrian colours he doth here deject
With too much scorn, behold at length how fate
Makes him a wretched prisoner to that state;
And leaves him, as a mark of fortune's spight,
When princes tempt their stars beyond their light.

Ben Jonson.

CHAP. II. England was confined in Gynasia till the following Easter, when he was sold to the emperor of Germany. Henry VI. removed him to a castle in the Tyrol; and the prison was so strong, that no one had ever escaped from it. But in the mind of a tyrant, mountains form not impenetrable barriers, and walls are a doubtful security. Imperial cruelty therefore commanded that armed men should always be present in the chamber of Richard, and that he should never speak in private to any of his companions. Sometimes the royal captive calmed his angry soul by singing the warlike deeds of the heroes of romance. At other times he diverted melancholy by the composition of poems; in one of which he declares, with simple pathos, that his barons well knew that he would have ransomed any of his companions who had been overtaken by a misfortune similar to his own; but he would not reproach them, although he was a prisoner.* Occasionally he forgot his misfortunes, and the apparent negligence of his friends. His native hilarity conquered the bitterness of his spirit; he laughed at the frequent intoxication of his jailors, he sported the keenness of his wit, and in the boisterousness of his merriment displayed his personal strength and agility. He

* See note I.

He was soon removed to Hagenau, where he was treated with respect by the emperor, and he was afterwards immured in a prison at Worms.* CHAP. II.

The king of France rejoiced at the calamities of his rival, and implored the emperor never to allow him again to molest the world. Philip Augustus then invaded Normandy; and after having met with some successes, laid siege to Rouen: but he was repulsed by the earl of Leicester, who had lately returned from Palestine, and whose valour was as conspicuous in political as in religious wars. Prince John made another attempt to seat himself on the English throne; but the barons were indignant at his perfidiousness to his brother, and sympathized with their imprisoned king.† Queen Eleanora wrote two long and plaintive letters to the Pope on the subject of her son's confinement. She thought that it would be no degradation of Papal dignity, if Celestine would make personal intercession for Richard's liberation. The princes of the earth were agreed to destroy a Christian king, and yet the sword of St. Peter remained in its scabbard.‡ The Pope accordingly

* For further remarks on Richard's adventures, see note K.

† Bromton, 1252. Neubridge, IV. 34. Hoveden, 724.

‡ Rymer, I. 57, 58. new edit.

CHAP. II.

ingly threatened the emperor and French king with excommunication, unless the one gave freedom to Richard, or the other did not cease from his barbarous wars.* The ecclesiastical and secular princes of Germany assembled in diet at Worms in the month of July; and Richard, attended by the bishops of Bath and Ely, was brought before them. He was arraigned by the emperor for the crimes of supporting an usurper in Sicily, of quarrelling with the king of France, of insulting the duke of Austria, and of murdering the marquis of Tyre, who was a relation of the emperor. To all these charges Richard replied in so clear and argumentative a manner, that the members of the diet were filled with admiration of him; and no suspicion of guilt remained in their minds.† Richard, however, was treated by the emperor as a prisoner of war; a treaty was concluded between them, by which the English monarch was to obtain his liberty on payment of one hundred thousand marks of silver, according to the Cologne standard, and the delivery of hostages for thirty thousand marks to the emperor, and twenty thousand to the duke of Austria.‡ The

July 1193. His trial at Worms.

* Hoveden, 725. † See note L.

‡ Speaking of Richard's ransom, Otho de Blaise (Muratori, VI. 895,) says he must not venture to mention the sum, for if he did, he should not expect to be believed.

The great council of England immediately imposed taxes for the amount of the first payment of the ransom; and although the wishes of the nation were in accordance with its decrees, yet the money was with great difficulty collected.* In the month of October Richard was removed from his dungeon at Worms to one at Spires; and his imprisonment was to be terminated at the assembly of the diet at Christmas. The emperor CHAP. II.

* Hoveden, 725. Waverly, 164. The poverty of the nation was only pretended, for Bromton relates, that when some German nobles entered London with Richard, in March 1194, they were struck with the magnificence of the city, and exclaimed, that the people had been wise in concealing their wealth, which if known to the emperor, a larger ransom would have been required, p. 1256, 1258. Caxton and Stow are wrong in saying that all the ransom was paid in coin. Bullion would be more valuable to the emperor than English money. The plate ornaments of the churches were melted down together into bars or ingots. Some stamp might have been put upon them in order to denote their goodness. The word mark expressed in old times both coin and weight in silver: and the treaty mentions Cologne weight and not English sterling. See Ruding's Annals of the Coinage, I. 336—388. North's Remarks on Clarke's Conjectures, p. 34, &c. An old traveller through Germany, towards the close of the seventeenth century, says that the ransom of Richard "beautified Vienna; and the two walls round the city, "the one old and inward, little considerable at present, were "built with the ransom of Richard I." Brown's Travels through Germany, p. 74, 4to, 1677.

CHAP. II.

peror and the princes of Germany assembled, the imperial commissioners appeared with the one hundred thousand marks, and queen Eleanora with the hostages; but the friends of Philip and John offered the emperor such large sums of money for the extension of the captivity of Richard, or his delivery into their hands, that the irresolute Henry VI. postponed the subject till the meeting of the diet at Mayence at the end of January. In that conference of the German princes, perpetual imprisonment seemed at one moment to be the fate of Richard, for the emperor declared he would cancel the treaty, and would accept the noble offers of Philip and John. But the clerical and secular princes of Germany were so highly indignant at this projected violation of the honour of their country, that they compelled their lord to accept the money and hostages of the English king. Richard was released on the 6th of February. The archbishop of Cologne and other noblemen paid him the highest honour as he passed through their territories on his road to Antwerp, whence he embarked for England, and landed at Sandwich.*

His return to England. March 1194.

* M. Paris, 147. Bromton, 1252—1257. Hoveden, 731—734.

CHAP. III.

THE FOURTH AND FIFTH CRUSADES.

Death and character of Saladin.....His successors... Pope Celestine III. promotes a crusade.....It is embraced by Germany.....Adventures of the Germans in Palestine.....Fair prospect of complete success.....Ruin of the cause.....Return to Europe of some of the Germans.....And massacre of the rest at Jaffa.....Death of Henry, king of Jerusalem.....Almeric and Isabella, the new king and queen.....Character of Fulk, preacher of the fifth crusade.....Politics of the Papacy respecting the crusades.....Pope Innocent III. promotes a new crusade.....It is embraced by France and Flanders .....The barons wish for the maritime aid of Venice.....Embassy to Venice.....Treaty between the republic and the envoys.....Departure of the Croises.....Arrival at Venice.....Suspension of the Crusade.....Subjugation of Zara.....Papal politics.....Grecian politics.....The Croises sail to Constantinople.....Attack and siege of the city .....Captured by the Croises.....Revolution in the government.....Another revolution.....The Croises renew the war.....Their complete victory.....Sack of Constantinople.....Division of the plunder..... Vengeance of the Croises on the fine arts.....Election of a Latin emperor.....General remarks on the empire of the Latins in Greece.

CHAP. III. WHILE Palestine was enjoying independence and peace, an event occurred that promised it confirmation of the security of which Richard's victories had held out a prospect. Saladin died: he was in the fifty-seventh year of his age; during twenty-two years he had reigned over Egypt, and for nineteen was absolute master of Syria. No Asiatic monarch has filled so large a space in the eyes of Europe as the antagonist of Cœur de Lion. He was a compound of the dignity and the baseness, the greatness and the littleness of man. As the Moslem hero of the third holy war, he proved himself a skilful general, and a valiant soldier. He hated the Christian cause, for he was a zealous Muselman; and his principles authorised him to make war upon the enemies of the prophet: but human sympathy mollified the rigour of his enthusiasm, and when his foes were suppliants, he often forgot the sternness of Islamism. He was fond of religious exercises and studies; but his mind was so much above the age in which he lived, that he never consulted soothsayers and astrologers. He had gained the throne by blood, artifice, and treachery; but though ambitious, he was not tyrannical; he was mild in his government; the friend and dispenser of justice. Eager for the possession, but indifferent to the display of power, he was simple in manners, and

Death and character of Saladin. A. D. 1193.

and unostentatious in deportment. He at- CHAP. III.
tempted by conciliation and tuition to change the religious sentiments of the Egyptian Fatimites, but the intolerant spirit of his religion would sometimes appear, the politician was lost in the zealot, and he inflicted punishment on those who presumed to question any of the dogmas of a Muselman's creed.* :

Wars and rebellions had filled all the thoughts of Saladin, and he had established no principles of succession. Three of his numerous progeny became sovereigns of Aleppo, Damascus, and Egypt; others had smaller possessions, and the emirs and atabeks of Syria again struggled for independence. The soldiers of the late sultan rallied round his brother Saphadin, whose wisdom and valour were familiar to them. Both by stratagem and liberal policy he reared a large fabric of empire† in Syria, and he was the most powerful

His successors.

* Abulfeda, iv. 133, 141. Bohadin, passim, and De Guignes, ii. 237. D'Herbelot, art. Salaheddin, and see note (M).

† Saphadin's power was, however, only personal; for in 1218, the year of his death, the half-extinguished embers of civil discord blazed afresh: some of Saladin's children and the atabeks enjoyed Syria, till they were swept away by the successors of Zinghis Khan. Egypt was ruled by a descendant of Saladin; but the Mamlukes usurped the throne, and,

CHAP. III.

powerful of all the Moslem princes, when the time for the expiration of the peace arrived. The Saracenic power was however palsied for a while by a dreadful famine in Egypt, and the Latins in Palestine suffered also from the miserable state of this general granary. The knights of St. John cast their regards towards Europe, and particularly to England, for succour, and entreated that new armies would march to Palestine, and destroy the exhausted Moslems.† Two years before this favourable moment, the daring and ambitious Pope Celestine III. had again sounded the trumpet of war. He exhorted the archbishops and bishops of the Christian church to persuade their congregations to spread the crimson standard, and to march against the persecutors of the faith of Jesus Christ. Plenary indulgence was offered to those faithful soldiers, and the protection of the church to their families and possessions. France had not revived from its losses in the third crusade, and Philip Augustus heard the appeal with indifference. Many of the people of England inrolled their names as holy warriors, obtained spiritual

Pope Celestine III. promotes a crusade. A.D. 1195.

and, as they were of the same blood as the Tartars, they were invincible.

* See the grand master's letter to the prior in England. Hoveden, p. 827.

spiritual absolution, and then abandoned their pious resolves. The Pope hurled his thunders against those who deserted their profession, except for some legitimate cause; but all thoughts of a crusade gradually died away in England, for the king was too much occupied in political concerns to encourage it.* But wild schemes of war were occasionally in his mind, and the early writers have ascribed to his dauntless spirit the vast design of conquering Egypt, and after having gained the holy land, of possessing himself of the throne of Constantinople.* CHAP. III.

Designs equally ambitious were entertained by the emperor Henry, the enemy of Plantagenet. Seconded by imperial influence, the clergy successfully preached the crusade through all the German states. The emperor declared that he would provide a passage for both rich and poor who wished to go.* But though influenced, he was not absorbed by the love of barren glory, and when the possession of Sicily seemed an easy achievement, he postponed the gathering of laurels in Palestine, till he had added a great state to his empire in Europe.

* M. Paris, 150.
† Sanutus, lib. iii. pars xi. ch. i.
‡ Cont. William, p. 643.

CHAP. III. Tancred, prince of Sicily, had lately died, and Henry, in right of his wife Constantia, put in his claims. This defection from the holy war was declared to be in accordance with the opinions of his wisest princes and lords, and it did not quench the spirit of fanaticism and romance. From the north to the south of Germany, the frenzy of crusading had spread, and it had infected the bishops of Bremen, Wurtsburg, Passau, and Ratisbon; the dukes of Saxony, Brabant, Bavaria, and the son of the duke of Austria; the marquis of Brandenburg and Moravia; the landgrave of Thuringia; the count Palatine, and the counts of Habsburg and Schwenbourg. Both laymen and clergy burnt with divine zeal, and received the sign of the sufferings of Christ in token of the remission of their sins.* The son of Henry duke of Limberg, and the archbishop of Mayence, led the vanguard of the holy warriors; and in the passage through Hungary they were joined by Margaretta, sister of the French king and queen of Hungary, who, as one mode of consolation for the loss of her husband, had vowed to pass the remainder of her life in the pains of pilgrimage. Though the time of peace, as settled by the treaty between

It is embraced by Germany.

* Chron. Slav. lib. v. c. i. L'Art de vérifier les Dates, vol. iii. p. 115.

tween Richard and Saladin had expired, yet the Christians and Muselmans continued to live in amity. When the new champions of the cross arrived at Acre, no remonstrances of the Latins against fresh wars, no suggestions that all new Crusaders ought to be obedient to the discretion of the residents in the holy land, could abate the furious desire of the Germans for hostility. Their aggressions were quickly returned by the Muselmans, civil feuds were hushed, and Saphadin again headed the veteran forces of Syria and of Egypt. The important city of Jaffa was taken by him before the Christian army from Acre could relieve it. The care and expense of Richard were dissipated in a moment; the fortifications were destroyed, and several thousands of the people of Jaffa were put to the sword. In these unhappy moments, another portion of the German force, under the command of the dukes of the Lower Lorraine and Saxony, arrived at Acre. They had made the voyage from the northern ports of Germany, and in their route had chastised the Moors of Portugal. Confident in their strength, the united forces of Europe and Palestine, led by the duke of Saxony, directed their march towards the city of Beritus; but Saphadin, ever observant of events, quitted the vicinity of Jaffa, and overtook his foes between Tyre and

Adventures of the Germans in Palestine.

CHAP. III.

Sidon. The close columns of the duke of Saxony's army were impenetrable to his vigorous and continual attacks. The victory of the Christians appeared to be decisive, the enemy's force was scattered, and so extensive was the panic, that the Saracens abandoned Laodicea, Gabala, Jaffa, Sidon, and Beritus. Nine thousand prisoners were redeemed without ransom; and the statement that there were three years provisions for the inhabitants of Beritus in the storehouses of that town, shews the importance of the day of Sidon. The exultation of the Crusaders was still further advanced, by the arrival of a third body of friends, headed by Conrad, bishop of Hidelsheim and chancellor of the German empire. By the usual process of ambitious princes, Henry had subjugated Sicily, and now devoted to the conquest of the holy land, he sent this third army as his immediate procursors.*

Fair prospect of complete success.

It seemed that the hour was now at hand when Europe would receive the reward of her invincible heroism. All the sea coast of Palestine

* The continuation of the Chronica Slavorum, by Arnold of Lubec, lib. v. c. iii. and a letter of the duke of Lorraine on the subject of the war to the archbishop of Cologne, in the second vol. of Freher, Rer. Scrip. Germ. p. 362. Bernardus, 816, 818. Hoveden, 722. Abulfeda, iv. 165.

tine was already in the possession of the Christians; and even they who had generally most desponded, were now elevated with the conviction that the cross must ere long surmount the walls of Jerusalem. But in their march from Tyre towards the holy city, they made a fatal halt at the fortress of Thoron. The lofty and solid pile of stones withstood the attacks of the common engines of violence. But by a month's labour of some Saxon miners, the rock itself which supported the fortress was pierced through; and the battlements tottered to their foundation. The Saracens were now at the feet of the Christians suing for clemency. A free passage into the Moslem territories was all that they asked, and the fort might then be at the disposal of the Crusaders. After much time had been passed in balancing considerations of revenge or mercy, a treaty founded on these terms was signed: but although just principles of war prevailed with the majority, yet the smaller party, who breathed nothing but slaughter, impressed their menaces so deeply on the minds of the Saracens, that the latter vowed to submit to the last extremity, rather than confide in the agreements and oaths of champions of the cross.* They gained resolution from

CHAP. III.

Ruin of the cause.

* Indeed the Arabic writers state that the French soldiers assured

CHAP. III. from despair; they met their foes in the passages which had been mined in the rocks; and in every encounter the Moslem scymitar reeked with Christian blood. Factious contentions disordered the Latin council; insubordination and vice raged in the camp; and, to crown their miseries, the Croises heard that the Infidel world had recovered from its defeat at Sidon, and that the sultans of Egypt and Syria were concentrating their levies. Daunted at the rumour of their march, the German princes deserted their posts in the middle of the night, and fled to Tyre. In the morning their flight was discovered by the soldiers, and horror and despair seized every breast. The camp was deserted by those who had strength to move: the feeble left their property, the cowardly their arms behind them. The road to Tyre was filled with soldiers and baggage in indiscriminate confusion; but so exhausted was the state of the Muselmans in Thoron, that the Christians were not molested in their retreat by any accidents except those which their own imprudence and precipitation occasioned.

When

assured the garrison that the Germans would slay them even if they surrendered.

* Chron. Slav. lib. vi. c. 4, and 5. Hoveden, 773.

CHAP. III.

When the fragments of the army were collected, and the soldiers were at a distance from danger, every one reproached the other as the cause of the late disgraceful event. The Germans accused the Latins of cowardice; and the barons of the holy land declared that they would not submit to the domineering pride of the Germans.* Conrad and his soldiers went to Jaffa, and resolved to repair its fortifications, and to wait the moment for revenge on the Latins of Syria. Saphadin marched against them, and the Germans did not decline the combat. Victory was on the side of the Christians; but it was bought by the death of many brave warriors, particularly of the duke of Saxony, and of the son of the duke of Austria. But the Germans did not profit by this success, for news arrived from Europe that the great support of the crusade, Henry VI. was dead. The archbishop of Mayence, and all those princes who had an interest in the election of a German sovereign, deserted the holy land. The queen of Hungary was the only individual of consequence whose fanaticism was stronger than worldly considerations. The remnants, and they

Return to Europe of the Germans.

* All the quarrels were conducted in Scriptural language. Treachery was the crime of which each party accused the other; for the case of Judas was in the minds of all.

CHAP. III. they were more than twenty thousand, of this once powerful host, fortified themselves in Jaffa. But a new storm arose in the Turkish states. It swept over Beritus and the land of the Christians; and, on the eleventh of November, while the Germans were celebrating the feast of St. Martin; the Moslems entered the city of Jaffa, and slew every individual whom they found.*

Nov. 1197. and massacre of the rest at Jaffa.

Death of Henry, king of Jerusalem.

About the time of the massacre at Jaffa, Henry count of Champagne, the acknowledged king of Jerusalem, died.† Private pleasures alone had charms for him, and he never executed the few offices of royalty which still formed the duties of the lord of the holy land. The barons always desired to preserve in Palestine the semblance of a kingdom, for their proud spirit would not own the full extent of the Moslems' victories, and if no appearances of state were preserved,

* Old Fuller says, "At this time, the spring-tide of their "mirth so drowned their souls, that the Turks coming in "upon them, cut every one of their throats to the number "of twenty thousand: and quickly they were stabbed with "the sword that were cup-shot before. A day which the "Dutch (the Germans) may well write in their calendars in "red letters died with their own blood, when the camp was "their shambles, the Turks their butchers, and themselves "the Martinmasse beeves, from which the beastly drunkards "differ but a little." Holy War, book 3, c. 16.

† Bernardus, p. 815.

preserved, Europe would think that the whole of Palestine was lost. The grandmaster of the Hospitallers represented to Isabella the propriety of her marriage with Almeric de Lusignan, king of Cyprus, who had lately succeeded his brother Guy. It was thought that Acre and its vicinity could not remain in the hands of the Latins, unless they were governed by a king, and that, in every circumstance, Cyprus, as a place of succour and retreat, would be a valuable ally to Jerusalem. With equal truth, it might have been argued, that, if there were a powerful king in Palestine, faction, the great foe of the state, could not raise its head. Familiarised to the joys of royalty and love, the widowed queen embraced with rapture new prospects of happiness, and in her eyes Almeric was as estimable as she had found her divorced husband Humphry, or her deceased lords Conrad and Henry. The union was approved of by the clergy and barons, it was celebrated at Acre, and Almeric and Isabella were proclaimed king and queen of Cyprus and Jerusalem.*

Almeric and Isabella, new king and queen.

The third and fourth Crusades were created by the ordinary influence of papal power and royal authority: but the fifth sprung from genuine

Character of Fulk, preacher of the fifth Crusade.

* Cont. William, II. 16. Sanutus, 201.

CHAP. III. nuine fanaticism.* At the close of the twelfth century a hero arose in France, worthy of companionship with Bernard. Fulk, of the town of Nuilly, near Paris, was distinguished by the vehemence and ability of his preaching, and as in early life he had drank deeply of the cup of pleasure, he was well qualified to describe the different states of the sinner and the saint. He did not involve himself in the speculative absurdities of the day, but declaimed against the prevailing vices of usury and prostitution. For two years he preached without success, but after that time Heaven lent its aid to the efforts of the preacher, in order that his words, like arrows from a powerful bow, might penetrate the depraved hearts of men.† Accordingly, miracles attested celestial approbation, and his sermons were received as oracles. With the extension of his fame his wishes for religious good encreased, and his soul was enflamed with the desire of accomplishing the great aim of Christendom. He accordingly assumed the cross, and war with the infidels became the copious matter

* The authorities for the fourth and fifth Crusades are described in note N.

† Sed pius Conditor nolens Prædicatoris sui semina ulterius deperire, contulit voci Prædicatris sui vocem virtutis, ut verba ejus quasi sagittæ potentis acutæ, hominum prava corda, consuetudine obdurata penetrarent, et ad lachrymas et pœnitentiam emollirent. Rad. Coggehalensis.

matter of his sermons. When the people saw that the man of God was signed with the sanguinary badge, and heard him promise to become their leader, the rich and the poor, the noble and the ignoble, the old and the young of both sexes, thronged around him, and received from him with devout alacrity the insignia of holy warriors. His miracles and preaching were soon reported in Italy, and the pope bestowed upon his exertions the apostolical benediction. CHAP. III.

Politics of the papacy in the Crusades.

At the early age of thirty-six, Innocent III. was seated in the papal chair, and he discharged the high duties of his august station with the same ardour with which he had pursued his studies in the solitude of the cloister. Since the days of Gregory VII. the papacy had not been filled with a more arrogant and aspiring prelate. He was the first pope that endeavoured to include the fortunes as well as the consciences of men in the dominion of the holy see. Louis, and Philip Augustus, kings of France, and Henry II. king of England had imposed taxes on their subjects for the benefit of the Crusades, and these precedents were embraced by Innocent. Following the suggestions of an ambitious spirit, his military predecessor Gregory wished

CHAP. III.

wished to arm Europe against Asia. Personal interest had induced Urban to adopt and encourage the general wish for the redemption of the holy sepulchre. For a whole century papal protection, superstition, and valour kept the flame alive. But when Innocent for the avowed purpose of supporting the Crusades presumed to tax the clergy, a new character was given to the sacred wars, and a new impulse to the minds of men. The pecuniary levies were not meant for the benefit of Palestine, but for the filling of the coffers of Rome. For the gratification of his luxury and avarice, therefore, the pope became interested in the Crusades. Each time of his inspiring the people with religious ardour was the season for general plunder; for although the tax was nominally on the clergy alone, yet every artifice was used to drain money from the laity. All the influence of papal royalty was for awhile exercised in the promotion of Crusades, and the animating counsels of the Vatican checked the chivalry of Europe from sinking into despair.

Innocent III. promotes a new Crusade. A. D. 1200, &c.

Innocent III. wrote to the various temporal and spiritual chiefs * of Christendom, requiring them

* He even wrote to the heretical emperor of Constantinople to permit the Crusade. Vit. Innoc. III. Muratori, Rer.

them to take up arms for the defence of Palestine, CHAP. III.
or at least to send him considerable succours of men and money. His nuntios travelled through Europe preaching the holy theme, and the pardons and indulgences which they offered, induced many men to become soldiers of God.* The pope commanded the clergy to contribute the fortieth part of their revenues, and to place boxes in the churches for the reception of the alms of the laity The imposition was complied with, and the voluntary oblations of the princes and people equalled the amount of the contributions of the clergy.† The military spirit of the day directed religious ardour, and some noble knights prevented the preaching of Fulk, and the commands of Innocent, from producing no effect than that of enriching the treasury of the Vatican. At a public tournament in Cham-

It is embraced in France and Flanders.

Rer. Scrip. Ital. vol. 3. p. 507. The departure of the Germans from the holy land, and the divisions among the Muselman princes, are the circumstances upon which the pope chiefly builds his arguments for the necessity of a new war.

* Villehardouin, No. 1. Porce que cil pardons fu issi gran, si s'en esmeurent mult li cuers des gens, et mult s'en croisierent, porce que li pardons ere si gran.

† Baluz. vit. Inn. in Muratori Rer. Scrip. Ital. III. 526. See too Hoveden, p. 828. We can well understand with Diceto that not much of this money was applied by the pope to religious purposes.

CHAP. III.

pagne, Thibaud III.* the youthful count of that province, and his relation, count Louis of Blois and Chartres, resolved to exchange the image of war for its reality. Reginald of Montmirail, and Simon de Montfort,† two of the noblest barons of France, and a proud corps of gentlemen, vowed to partake of the glory of their friends: and the people of the Netherlands would not want a leader, for Baldwin count of Flanders, and brother-in-law of Thibaud, received the cross at Bruges.

1200. The barons wish for the maritime aid of Venice.

The counts and barons met in deliberation at the parliament of Soissons, and afterwards at Compeigne. By sad experience Europe had learned the horrors of a land journey to Palestine. The kings of France and England had made

* Villehardouin (No. 19) says that no baron of France had more vassals than the count of Champagne. He had one thousand eight hundred knights in complete feudal tenure, and four hundred by inferior ties. Du Cange, note on No. 4. Thibaud and Louis were nephews both of Richard king of England and Philip Augustus of France. Du Cange, note 2. Thibaud was a brother of the late Henry king of Jerusalem.

† This Simon de Montfort, lord of the Mantois between Chartres and Paris, was the father of the Simon de Montfort, who by marriage with the sister of the earl of Leicester succeeded to that title of English nobility. L'Art de vérifier les Dates, II. 677.

made their military pilgrimage by sea. The resources of two powerful kingdoms were at the command of Philip Augustus and Richard, but the barons of Champagne were destitute of all maritime advantages, and they therefore determined to purchase the aid of one of the great naval powers of Europe. Thibaud, Baldwin, and Louis invested six of their friends with authority to conclude a treaty with the Venetians, and these deputies immediately repaired to Venice. Henry Dandalo,* the doge, and the principal citizens, received their illustrious visitors with distinction, but were astonished on learning the general nature of their powers; and their surprise was not diminished when the deputies declared that they could only reveal the details of their object to the general council of the state. With the required solemnities they professed that they came to Venice to procure, upon any terms which the queen of the Adriatic should dictate, the aid of her ships and maritime necessaries in order to assist the barons of France

Embassy to Venice.

 in

* Henry Dandalo was eighty-four years of age on the 1st of June 1192, when he was elected doge. Du Cange on Villehardouin, 204. It by no means appears that Dandalo had totally lost his sight. The expression of the Chronicler Dandalo is that he was visu debilis, p. 322. See too Sanutus, lib 3. pars. 11. c. 1. Sabellicus, Hist. Venet. dec. 1. lib. 7.

CHAP. III. in their endeavour to reconquer Jerusalem, and to revenge the wrongs of Jesus Christ. After several days had been passed in deliberation on this important message, Henry Dandalo announced to the deputies that the republic would, for eighty-five thousand marks of silver, according to Cologne weight, furnish flat-bottomed vessels for the passage of four thousand five hundred horses, and nine thousand squires, and ships for four thousand five hundred knights and twenty thousand foot soldiers; and provisions were also to be furnished for one year. Venice would likewise become a principal in the war, and support fifty gallies of her own, on condition that all acquisitions should be equally shared between the two allied nations.* The deputies cheerfully submitted to these terms. The council of ten and the grand council supported the doge, and a solemn assembly of the people was held in the chapel of St. Mark for the final ratification of the treaty. The marshal of Champagne addressed the assembly. "Signors," said he, "the most noble and powerful barons of

Treaty between the republic and the envoys.

* See the treaty in Andrew Dandalo's Chronicle, Muratori, xii, 323. Sismondi appears to be right in estimating the mark at fifty livres, and the sum total will be four millions two hundred and fifty thousand livres, modern French money, by no means an unreasonable charge. Hist. des Républiques Ital. vol. 2. p. 383. n.

" of France have sent us to you, in order to CHAP. III.
" entreat you in the name of God to have com-
" passion on Jerusalem, which groans under
" the tyranny of the Turks; and to aid us on this
" occasion in revenging the injury which has
" been done to your Lord and Saviour. The
" barons of France have turned their eyes to
" you as the greatest maritime power in Eu-
" rope. They have commanded us to throw
" ourselves at your feet, and never to change
" that supplicatory posture till you have pro-
" mised to aid them in recovering the holy
" land." The simple eloquence of Villehar-
douin, the tears and humble attitude of his com-
panions, touched the hearts of the people.
Cries of "We grant your request" sounded
through the hall. The treaty was sealed by
the deputies and the grand council, and after
the conditions had been ratified by oaths, it was
sent to the pope for his confirmation. The de-
puties borrowed two thousand marks from some
Venetian merchants, and paid them to the
state. They then quitted the republic, two re-
turned straight to Champagne, and others went
to Pisa and Genoa, in order to awaken those
republics from dreams of avarice to the vision-
ary delights of fanaticism. Villehardouin re- 1201.
paired to France with the welcome news of the

CHAP. III.

conclusion of the treaty with the Venetians. Thibaud sprung from the bed of sickness, called for his war-horse, and declared his intention immediately to march. But this effort was his last. The debility which succeeded this exertion gave his disease opportunity to encrease, and he expired in the act of distributing to his feudatories the money which he had intended to expend upon the holy war.* The command of the knights and people who had enlisted under his banner was successively refused by the duke of Burgundy, and the count of Bar, and finally accepted by Boniface, marquis of Montferrat.† In the church of Soissons the cross was affixed to his shoulder by the hands of some priests, and particularly by Fulk of Nuilly.

Departure of the Croises.

Shortly after Easter, in the year 1202, the French Crusaders assembled. The renewed exertions of Fulk had often been successful in changing superstition into enthusiasm, but on the other hand as two years had elapsed since the cross had been assumed by the people, the zeal of many had cooled, and they basely applied to worldly purposes the money which the count of Champagne

* Villehardouin, 19.

† He was younger brother of the celebrated Conrad, marquis of Tyre.

Champagne had bequeathed to them for the holy war.* After having traversed France, the soldiers of Champagne crossed Mount Cenis into Lombardy, joined the Italian Crusaders under the marquis of Montferrat, and finally arrived at Venice, where they were lodged in the island of St. Nicholas. The bishop of Autun, and many of the French, embarked at Marseilles and other ports for the holy land, and if the marshal of Champagne, and the count of St. Paul, had not met and remonstrated with count Louis and his force in Lombardy, the soldiers of Blois would, like many other Croises, have sailed from the eastern shores of Italy, and have left the Flemish and Champagne knights to accomplish the treaty with the Venetians.† CHAP. III. Arrival at Venice.

The Venetians were munificent and liberal to the honourable strangers, but instances of

 defection

* Fulk did not live to hear the issue of his exertions. He died while the French were at Venice in 1202. He was buried in the church of Nuilly. Du Cange adds (note on Villehardouin, No. 37), Son tombeau se voit encore à present en l'eglise de Nuilly, où l'on rend l'honneur deu à la memoire de ce saint homme, et particulierement és jours solemnnels, ausquels on couvre ce tombeau d'un drap de soye, et le Curé aprés avoir été aux autels y donne de l'encens.

† Villehardouin—the first twenty-nine paragraphs. Ramusio, p. 29.

CHAP. III.

defection from the cause had been so numerous, that the Crusaders were unable to make a corresponding return in money.* The counts of Flanders, and Blois, and St. Paul, and the marquis of Montferrat, sold all their jewels, but thirty-four thousand marks were still wanting. The high minded cavaliers resolved to pawn their lives rather than fail in their promise to the Venetians, but the timid and lukewarm began to rejoice at any probability of the breaking up of the enterprize. In this exigency the doge suggested an equivalent. The town of Zara,† in the Adriatic, off the Dalmatian coast, had revolted from the republic to Hungary. Henry Dandalo solicited the Crusaders to assist in its reduction, and it was agreed that the payment of their contribution should be deferred till they had conquered the infidel Saracens.

Suspension of the Crusade.

The

* By the conditions of the treaty the money was to be paid to the Venetians *before* the sailing of the expedition. Mercantile caution!

† Jadera is the Roman, Diodora the barbarous, and Zara the modern name for this town. It was originally a Roman colony, and on one of its marbles is the inscription that Cæsar Augustus was its founder. The Turks have often attempted to take it from the Venetians. Bajazet the Great was successful in 1498; but it was recovered. The present population is between four and five thousand. Cassas, Voyage de Dalmatia, p. 83, Paris, 1802.

The doge himself, old and feeble as he was, offered to be their leader. He put on the cross, and some of the Venetians, (the historians lament the paucity of the number,) imitated his piety and courage. The French were at that time reinforced by a large body of Germans, led by the bishop of Halberstadt, armed with the artillery of the age. The soldiers of the cross* were transported to Zara; the ships broke through the chain which defended the port, and the troops disembarked. The terror of their arms would have produced a bloodless revolution, if some disaffected soldiers had not assured the Zaradenes that the French were not disposed to co-operate with the Venetians. Dandalo called on the barons to prove the truth or the falsehood of the charge; and the vigour with which the noble cavaliers attacked the walls, shewed their anger at the disgraceful implication of want of fidelity. Zara surrendered at discretion; and as the season of winter had set in, it was agreed that the army should repose in the city till the spring.† The Vatican had in vain

CHAP. III.

November 1202. Subjugation of Zara.

* The marquis of Montferrat, however, would not accompany them. The Pope had forbidden the enterprise; and the marquis was the only leader who, on that occasion, respected his authority. Villehardouin, No. 39, and note.

† Villehardouin, 29—34, 39—43. Ramusio, p. 21—28.

CHAP. III. vain prohibited the Crusaders from drawing the sword against their Christian brethren; and the legate scarcely escaped with his life, when he endeavoured to mitigate the rage of the conquerors against the fallen Zaradenes. The French pretended, however, to lament the hard necessity which diverted them from the holy land; a party of knights and monks went to Rome; his Holiness pardoned his suppliant children, and sympathised with them at that want of firmness and union in their friends which had occasioned the second treaty with their allies.* The Venetians were slow in soliciting Papal absolution. The superiority of the Pope, which other nations acknowledged by subserviency, these haughty republicans merely acquiesced in by respect. The personal vices of the Popes were better known in Italy than in France. When Venice withdrew herself from imperial dominion, her spirit of freedom was transfused through her ecclesiastical as well as her civil constitution. Her happy situation had thrown

Papal politics.

* Villehardouin, No. 53, 54. Baluzius, however, tells us (p. 529—531,) that Innocent heard with astonishment of the repeated violations of his commands; and, not addressing himself to the Venetians, who seldom regarded his authority, he assured the French that the only means of pardon were for them to restore the fruits of their plunder to the Zaradenes, and not to sail to the holy land in company with the heretical Venetians.

thrown into her hands much of the commerce of the world; wealth had introduced the arts of life; intellectual culture succeeded social embellishments, and the people detected and despised the frauds of the Papal chair. CHAP. III.

Politics of Constantinople.

The Zaradene expedition, memorable in itself as a political diversion from a religious purpose, is lost, however, in the brilliancy of succeeding events. The eye of classical enthusiasm dwells with melancholy fondness on the city of Constantinople, the sister and rival of Rome, and the depository of all that was learned and eminent in the ancient world. But, viewed by itself, and independent of Roman images, the empire of the east awakens no great or pleasing associations. The free spirit of the republic, and the hardy virtues of a conquering nation, were subdued and effeminated by the despotism and luxury which are congenial to Asia. By the co-operating and mutually reflecting causes of private vices and bad government, the decline of the new empire was almost coeval with its foundation. Some of its fairest provinces were swept away by the Saracenian tempest; and, though its capital was saved, yet the preservation was more owing to the mountainous frontier of Asia Minor than to the spirit and valour of its people. The Seljuk Tartars blackened the

CHAP. III. the horizon of the city, but the storm was diverted before the time arrived for its bursting over its menaced prey. Constantinople stood during the first century of the Crusades, because until the days of Saladin no wide spreading power of the Muselmans was formed; and Saladin's exertions were bent upon Palestine. But treason and faction were active; and the state was fallen so low from its Roman dignity, that the aid of the western barbarians was invoked by a claimant to the throne of the Cæsars. One of the most singular and interesting pages of history is now before us. The fortunes of the Greek empire were put into the hands of a few French barons and a commercial republic. Alexius II.* the successor of the emperor Manuel Comnenus, was sacrificed to the lawless ambition of his uncle Andronicus. Under the specious pretext of revenging so unnatural an action, Isaac Angelus, a remote relation of the murdered youth, took up arms, and seized the person of the violator of the rights of men and of sovereigns. The revenge of Isaac was sated by blood; and in reward for his own virtue he placed himself on the throne. He enjoyed

* Alexius II. was son of the emperor Manuel, and of the empress Maria, daughter of Raymond of Poitiers, prince of Antioch.

joyed it for nearly two years, when, by a new revolution, he was hurled from his royal elevation, imprisoned, and deprived of sight. The author of these enormities was his brother Alexius, a brother, too, whom he had redeemed from Turkish slavery. The son of the imprisoned emperor escaped, and sought refuge with Philip, duke of Suabia, who had married his sister Irene. As he passed through Lombardy, he met a few straggling pilgrims, who advised him to entreat the aid of the generous Frenchmen at Venice. The young Alexius sent some friends to the marquis of Montferrat and the French barons, who consented to his wishes, on condition that the duke of Suabia would, in return, succour the cause of Palestine. While the French and Venetians were in quarters in Zara the ambassadors again appeared. They declared in public assembly, that Philip had commanded them to represent to the lords and cavaliers of France, that, as they had undertaken a long and perilous pilgrimage for the love of God, and for the maintenance of right and justice, so they ought to be ready to use their swords for the restoration of a dethroned prince. If they would place Alexius on the throne, religious schism should be healed; the eastern church should be brought into subjection to the church of Rome; and Greece should pour forth her

CHAP. III. her population and her treasury for the recovery of the holy land. Some impatient spirits clamoured against this proposed interruption to the great object of the crusade, but the majority determined in favour of the alliance; the characters of avengers of wrong was proud and honourable, and Saracenian Palestine would tremble when it heard of the approach of an army already covered with honours.* This assumption of power trenched upon the prerogatives of the Pope; he reprehended the barons for audaciously thinking themselves the general defenders and arbiters of justice; they must not deceive themselves by the speciousness of piety, but it behoved them to go straight to the holy land.† But it was in vain that one of the most commanding of all the successors of St. Peter issued decrees and bulls; the knights of France and

* Villehardouin, 45, 52.

† We are indebted to Baluzius (p. 533) for this notice respecting the remonstrance of the Pope. Villehardouin is silent: he thought proper to disobey his spiritual lord, but it seems that he would not attempt to justify his disobedience. The reason why the Pope prohibited the Crusaders from meddling with Grecian politics was this:—the emperor Alexius had already ingratiated himself into the favour of his holiness, and Innocent thought that he could make the feudal and religious submission of the Greek empire to the see of Rome the price of keeping the usurper on the throne.

and Italy not only received them either with indifference or disdain, but the Venetians, in absolute contempt of his regard for the Zaradenes, destroyed the walls, plundered the churches and houses, and divided the spoil with the French.* CHAP. III.

The young prince Alexius arrived at Zara in Easter 1203; and the army embarked and sailed to Corfu. But the soldiers began to tremble at the novelty and danger of the enterprise; dread of Papal anger mingled itself with personal fear and prudence; Simon de Montfort,† and many other men eminent for rank and power deserted,‡ and one half of the army would The Croises sail to Constantinople.

* Gunther, Blondus, Dandalo, and the epistles of Innocent, amply prove the assertion in the text. Villehardouin says, "Li Venisiens firent abatre la ville, et les tors et les "murs." The good old knight does not mention the cooperation of his countrymen. The translator has incorrectly rendered the passage, Les Venetiens firent démanteler les tours et les murailles.

† De Montfort enlisted himself in the service of the king of Hungary. Ramusio (p. 36), as a Venetian, is bitter against him for going into the service of the enemy of the republic. He afterwards went to the holy land, and distinguished himself more by the splendour, than the success, of his arms.

‡ During all the winter there had been many instances of desertion. But the deserters were worse off than the firmer spirits. Most of them perished by the wintry storms, or by the hands of the peasants in Sclavonia.

CHAP. III. would have returned home or gone to the holy land, if the barons had not sworn that under every contingency they would sail for Syria in the middle of the succeeding November. The navy then held due course to Constantinople,* and when they arrived in the Propontis, they 20th June, 1203. anchored off the abbey of St. Stephen's, three leagues to the west of the great city. "It was "at that time," says Villehardouin, with expressive simplicity, "that the magnitude and "splendour of Constantinople, awed the cou-"rage of the bravest, and not without reason, "for never since the creation of the world, had "so bold an enterprise been undertaken by so "small a force."† The irregular swarms of Greeks must be opposed by soldiers who were formidable from their united strength, and as discipline can alone be preserved in a well provided camp, the barons, at the suggestion of the prudent and experienced Dandalo, resolved to replenish their magazines of corn and other necessaries from the little islands between Constantinople and Chalcedon, before they encamped under

* Andrew Dandalo tells us that there were fifty gallies which formed the convoy of two hundred and forty vessels in which the soldiers sailed, a hundred and twenty palandars, and seventy store ships.

† Villehardouin, No. 66.

under the walls of the metropolis. Accordingly, CHAP. III.
with all the pride of military and naval power, the adventurers again set sail: their silken banners and streamers were displayed from the masts and poops of the vessels; the emblazoned and ornamented shields were ranged along the sides of the decks, like the battlements of towns, and the valiant knights stood behind their shelter, contemplating those boastful arguments, and picturing in their strong and ardent fancies the feats which they should soon achieve.* But they were amazed on beholding the ramparts of Constantinople crowded with people and soldiers; and when some of the enemy's stones and darts fell into their ships, the boldest hearts were appalled, the resolutions of the preceding day vanished in a moment, security by flight alone was thought of, and they were glad that the wind drove them to Chalcedon. After the men and horses had been refreshed in the imperial palace, the army moved to Scutari, whither the emperor sent offers of assistance to them in their passage through Asia Minor, but threatened them with destruction if they committed any aggression upon the Greeks. Conon de Bethune, the orator of the knights and barons, replied, that his companions entered the Grecian

* Villehardouin, No. 67.

CHAP. III. territories in the name of God, and in order to redress wrongs: if the usurper would descend from his throne, they would entreat pardon and an honourable station for him from the son of his brother, the emperor Isaac. But they sternly advised the ambassador never again to use the language of dictation and reproof.

25th June. The French and Venetian vessels sailed under the walls of Constantinople, exhibiting young Alexius to the people, and endeavouring to incite them to revolt against the reigning emperor. Not an individual Greek, however, answered the call.* The barons made several subsequent attempts to converse with the inhabitants, but arrows were the return which their exhortations received. War then became the only means of effecting the projected revolution. The invaders divided their army into six battalions. Baldwin of Flanders had the vanguard, because his soldiers were bowmen. His brother Henry commanded the second division; the third, fourth, and fifth, were led by the counts of St. Paul and Blois, and Matthew of Montmorency; and the rear guard of Tuscans, Lombards, and Germans, was headed by the marquis

Attack and siege of the city.

* Villehardouin, 67—74. Ramusio, 44—47; and the letter of the barons to the Pope, in Baluzius, p. 533.

marquis of Montferrat.* The bishops and clergy exhorted the soldiers to confess their sins, and to make their wills, for they did not know how soon it might please God to deliver them to death. The day for the attempt being arrived, the knights, armed cap-à-pie, their shields suspended from their necks, and their helmets laced, went on board the palandars, with their war-horses covered with rich caparisons. The large and heavy vessels received the other soldiers. The palandars were linked to galleys which were to conduct them over the rapid Bosphorus.† The navy of the Greek empire consisted only of twenty‡ ships, and they were in the harbour of Constantinople. Without opposition, therefore, the channel was crossed; the knights, with their lances on their wrists, leaped from the vessels as they ap- CHAP. III. 7th July.

 proached

* Villehardouin, 76—80.

† Villehardouin, No. 82. I have almost literally translated Villehardouin's description of the scene. We may add from Du Cange, that the caparisons mentioned above were as much the mark of chivalry as the coat of arms. The Greek emperors used them, and they were the only persons who could have them of a purple colour.

‡ According to Nicetas, the reason why the ships were so few, was, that the admiral, a brother-in-law of the empress, had sold the anchors, cables, sails, &c. of most of the navy. Nicetas in Alex. Comn. iii. 9.

CHAP. III. proached the shore, directly the water reached only to their girdles. The long and cross bowmen, and other foot soldiers, imitated their boldness. The palandars were brought to anchor, the horses were let out of their doors, the knights mounted, and formed in order of battle. So little resistance was made to the Franks, that if their foresight or sagacity had been equal to their courage, Constantinople would have been taken by a single effort. The capture of the tents and camp equipage of the Greeks, the port of Constantinople, and the tower of Galata, were the first consequences of the terror which the naval and military force of the invaders inspired.* Five days after these successes, the astonishing spectacle was exhibited, of a handful of men commencing the siege of the largest city in the world. So far from being able to surround it, they could scarcely blockade one side, and as the port was theirs, the walls in that quarter were chosen as the subject of attack. Catapults and balistæ were brought against the small part of the city which was besieged, and the beautiful houses and palaces were destroyed by the enormous stones which were thrown into the city. The Venetians, whose skill did not consist in military

* Villehardouin, 82. Nicetas, p. 269, edit. 1557.

military operations, reimbarked, and prepared their engines of naval war. After many skirmishes, it was resolved that a general attack should be made by land and sea. The camp was left in the charge of three of the French battalions, under the orders of the marquis of Montferrat; while the counts of Blois, Flanders, and St. Paul led the rest. But the walls were so bravely defended by the Pisans, and by the English and Danish auxiliaries,* that the French were repulsed. The van of the Venetian navy was formed of small vessels, and the rear was large ships, which carried towers as lofty as the walls of the city. After some hours had been consumed in murderous conflicts by the first line

17th July.

* Du Cange is at great pains to prove that the English and Danes, mentioned in the text, were people who inhabited the province of Denmark, whence the Angles proceeded. He proves that the emperors of Greece were accustomed to have stipendiary soldiers from various parts of Germany, and that the weapons of the Danes were hatchets. All this is true; but the assertion of Villehardouin remains disproved. Ordericus Vitalis was guilty of an anachronism, in making the natives who left England at the time of the conquest (1066) enter into the service of Alexius, who began to reign in 1181. But we know that the persecutions of the English were carried on through the whole of the reign of William the First; and that a large emigration of the subjugated nation to different countries was the consequence of every fresh act of cruelty of the rapacious Normans.

CHAP. III. and the Greeks on the ramparts, the invaders were depressed and exhausted. But during the dreadful pause, the voice of the veteran Doge was heard threatening tremendous punishments to those who would not assault the walls. The large ships approached the shore; rage and shame infuriated the Venetians; the Greeks were panic struck; the men of Dandalo's vessel planted the standard of St. Mark on the battlements of one of the towers, and immediately a long extent of wall was conquered. The emperor, who had not so well stationed his troops as to succour in a moment any particular point of attack, sent a tardy reinforcement to the quarter where the enemy was powerful. But the Doge set fire to the houses, and while the imperial troops were engaged in the diversion of occupation which this circumstance occasioned, the triumphant allies fortified themselves in the towers.* At length the splendid but feeble Grecians poured from the city, and formed in martial front before the French. The Venetians quitted their holds, and the Doge was the first man that joined the Latin lines. For a moment the Latin leaders were overawed by the number of their foes, and forgot that the nerves and soul of war were not in the Greeks. For some while

* Nicetas, 270. Villehardouin, 82, 94.

while the armies stood gazing on each other; but suspence gave birth to terror in the mind of Alexius, and a retreat into the city was sounded. After this disgraceful resignation of empire, flight from the scene of his shame alone remained to the usurper. On the same evening, therefore, he deserted and fled from the city, with his daughter and treasure.* Abandoned by their emperor, a victorious army on the walls, the people of Constantinople drew old Isaac from his prison, clad him in imperial robes, and seated him on a throne in the palace of Blachernæ. The courtiers, who watched the change of fortune's vane, immediately paid their homage of falsehood and flattery; but at the solicitation of the French and Venetians, he shared his title and power with his son Alexius. Peace and friendship existed for a while between the Greeks and Latins.† The Pisans, who had been the friends and soldiers of the deposed Alexius, became reconciled to the Venetians.‡ The French soon remembered the grand pur-

CHAP. III.

Revolution in the government.

* This is Nicetas's account of the flight of Alexius Baldwin (Baluzius, 534) says, that he left his family behind him. His daughter Irene was certainly with him some time afterwards, and it is as probable that she went with him, as that she followed him.

† Nicetas, 272. Villehardouin, 97, 101.

‡ Du Cange's note on No. 115 of Villehardouin.

CHAP. III. pose for which they had taken up arms, and sent heralds to the sultan of Egypt, announcing their intention of making him feel the edge of their conquering sword, unless he immediately delivered up the holy land. They implored also the Pope's pardon for having violated his commands in attacking Constantinople; but his holiness replied, that he should withhold the word of reconciliation until it should be seen whether the new emperor and his friends were sincere in their professions of wishing to unite the Grecian heretics to the Roman Catholic church.* The young Alexius paid the allied army part of the tribute, and kept them in the vicinity of Constantinople by every means of courtesy and promise. He assured the barons, that, next to God, he owed his throne to them: but he entreated his allies to consider that the Greeks hated him for his friendship with the Latins. Much time was necessary for the conciliation of forfeited allegiance: and great assistance would be required for his firmly grasping the reins of power. Nor would the Christian cause

* Afterwards, however, the French received papal absolution. The Venetians also condescended to solicit the same formal approbation of their conduct; and Innocent, glad of the least sign of their repentance, pardoned them. Baluzius, 534.

cause in Palestine be injured, if the French would for a while support the throne. None but enthusiasts could think of crossing the Mediterranean in autumn, and even were the perilous voyage effected, still no measures of hostility could be taken against the Turks in winter. Let impatience be restrained till the more benignant season of spring, and then the armies of Greece should be transported to the holy land, and assist the Europeans in redeeming the sepulchre. These appeals to prudence and interest were disdained by lofty chivalry; but when the Venetians peremptorily declined to tempt the seas at a dangerous period, military spirit sunk into acquiescence.* CHAP. III.

The marquis of Montferrat, and many of the French and Flemish knights, accompanied Alexius in a journey through Greece, where he received the tenders of his people's allegiance. While he was absent from Constantinople, the citizens had a new occasion of lamenting the presence of the Latins. Some Flemish soldiers, unrestrained by the prudence or humanity of the leaders of the army, embraced the dark and malignant feelings of the Latin residents, and openly attacked the votaries of another religion. The

* Villehardouin, 101, 103.

CHAP. III. The contest in arms would have been in favour of the Latins, but the sword was suspended when the attention was turned to a new calamity. In the tumult and confusion an edifice was set on fire. For eight days the flames spread through three miles of streets, and their last effects were seen in the ships in the port.* The French barons proclaimed their regret at this evil, and their indignation against its authors. But the enraged Greeks treated with ridicule and contempt these expressions of sorrow, and the Latins were obliged to seek shelter from their wrath among the Franks at Galata.† The folly of the emperors widened the breach between their allies and their people. The father and son were disunited, because Alexius presumed to place his own name before that of Isaac, and the old man, though totally unequal to discharge the duties of royalty, yet was indignant at being deprived of its honours. Alexius too offended the Greeks by his free and bacchanalian intercourse with the Barbarians. The gay cavaliers of France taught him to ridicule the repulsive pomp, and the cold and laboured ostentation of oriental grandeur; in their carousals

* This fire consumed the northern part of the city. The first fire destroyed the western quarters.

† Nicetas, p. 273 and 4.

carousals they shewed the equality which it is the nature of dissoluteness to create, and the succesor of the Cæsars was not ashamed to exchange his royal diadem for the cap of a Venetian sailor.* CHAP. III.

The people had beheld with apathy the late great change in the imperial throne, for they did not anticipate any revolution in their religious and civil institutions. But their passions were rouzed to madness, when they saw the religion of Rome suddenly and violently trampling on their own opinions,† and they then reflected with grief and rage that the political convulsion had been effected by the barbarous nations of Europe. In order to discharge his promises to the Latins, relating to money, Alexius had imposed numerous and severe taxes on his people. The odious duties were collected with difficulty, and the officers of the emperor resorted to the violent measure of robbing the churches of their gold and silver.‡ For some time

* Nicetas, 275. Villehardouin, 105—108.

† Among other acts of cruelty and folly the barons of France made the patriarch of Constantinople proclaim in the church of St. Sophia that Innocent III. was the legitimate successor of St. Peter.

‡ Nicetas, 273.

CHAP. III.

time the citizens regarded with mute anguish this contempt of the national altars. But one cause of hatred against the Latins stimulated the other, and the Greeks silently and secretly meditated the destruction of the Barbarians.

Another revolution.

Alexius Murtzuple Ducas was not of the character of those Grecian princes, who are described by Nicetas, as having more timidity of the Crusaders than the deer has of a lion. He was eloquent and brave, and as often as he talked of patriotism and detestation of the Latins he found the people willing auditors. By the rights of his birth he was admitted to the royal palace, where his counsels were congenial to princes who felt the oppressiveness of their debt of gratitude to those who had placed them on the throne. Yet Alexius and his father paused, and more than common sagacity was necessary for the decision of so perplexed a case. If they should continue to support the Latin army, the hatred of the Greeks would be further increased by its presence, and would unquestionably burst into a flame immediately after the departure of the Crusaders. Were they openly to defy the Latins, they would by that measure conciliate their subjects, but they could not exalt the nerveless Greeks into an equality in arms with the vigorous French. The counsels of

of Ducas, though they did not prevail with the emperor to declare hostility against the Croises, yet occasioned some delay in the payment of the tribute. The barons observed with scorn and rage the vacillations of the court, they called upon Alexius to decide between the alternatives of peace or war, between the performance or breach of the treaty which he and his father had entered into with their deliverers. No language but that of submission had ever before been heard in the palaces of Constantinople. The courtiers were astonished at the audacity of the French in defying the emperor: the feeling of indignation spread through the court, and the ambassadors sought their own safety in flight.* On that day war commenced between the Greeks and Latins, and the marshal of Champagne had the happiness of thanking God that in every engagement the French were victors. In the darkness of the night the emperor directed seventeen vessels, filled with Greek fire, into the Venetian fleet. The walls of the city were crowded with people who joyfully flocked to behold the destruction of their enemies.

CHAP. III.

The Croises renew the war.

* Villehardouin, 112. Ramusio, 76. Even in the wars between the Christians and the Muselmans, the former always demanded the objects of the war before they drew their sword. The defiance was generally carried by a person of condition, and often by the clergy.

CHAP. III. mies. But the Latin soldiers were prompt and active: the Venetians hurried to the shore, threw themselves into galleys and boats, and reached the fire-ships before the dreadful purpose had been accomplished. By means of poles and hooks they seized the Grecian vessels, drew them from amidst their own ships, and directed them to exhaust their fury in the Bosphorus. One vessel, belonging to a Pisan merchant, was the only Latin ship that was destroyed.*

As the remedy of all political evils, the Greek populace thought that a new emperor would be adequate. They assembled in the church of St. Sophia, and would not listen to the counsel of the patricians, that a change of princes would make no alteration in affairs. For three days they searched in vain for an individual who would accept the splendid but dangerous distinction. A young man, Nicholas Canabus, was, however, dazzled by the offer of the purple. He was crowned and proclaimed emperor of Greece. The marquis of Montferrat generously entered the city, and went to the palace of Blachernæ, in order to save Alexius. But the deposed emperor was a prisoner. Ducas ingratiated himself with the guards of the palace, and

† Villehardouin, 113.

and took the imperial buskins.* The people received their favourite with joy; and Canabus was deposed and soon forgotten. Murtzuple became emperor; he secured Alexius by immuring him in a dungeon; the old Isaac fell a victim to terror, and the usurper was left in quiet possession of the throne. Horror and astonishment seized the minds of the French and Venetians at the news of this inhumanity and treason. They declared that the Greeks were monsters in the sight of God and men, and that to punish them would be the height of virtue.† CHAP. III.

The enemies of Constantinople passed the remainder of the winter in preparing for war, and

* This circumstance was agreeable to the fashion of the Greek empire; for when an emperor was proclaimed, he was not immediately crowned or clothed with an imperial robe, but red buskins were given to him as the first and principal mark of dignity; thus commencing a ceremony at the foot, which most nations begin at the head. When an emperor was deposed or degraded, his buskins were taken from him. Oriental and Roman kings and princes have always wished to be distinguished from the people by the coverings of the legs and feet. Buskins of scarlet or purple were worn by the Roman generals who triumphed. Ornaments as well as colour distinguished the buskins of the great. Du Cange on Villehardouin, 116.

† Villehardouin, 116—118. Baldwin's official letter to the Pope, in Baluzius, 534. Ramusio, 79.

CHAP. III. and in gaining and enjoying the plunder of Grecian cities. Philippopoli was a principal source of booty; and on one occasion, as Henry of Hainault was returning from it, he routed the troops of Murtzuple; and though the emperor escaped, yet the joy of the people at that circumstance was more than balanced by the loss of the standard of the holy virgin.* The emperor was prompt and vigorous in measures of defence; and the Latins confessed that his military engines were larger and more powerful than any which they had ever beheld. Yet he was not so perfectly confident in his military preparations as to disdain the advantages of conciliation. He solicited and obtained a conference with the doge, but Dandalo declared to him that he would never treat with an usurper; and that his only measure of procuring favour would be to place his master on the throne, and implore his pardon.† The doge was impenetrable

* Nicetas, 280. Villehardouin, 119.

† See Baldwin's letter, p. 534. Nicetas, p. 280, makes the doge demand fifty thousand pounds of gold; and does not state in specific terms any other conditions. Baldwin's means of information were more direct than those of Nicetas. Baldwin adds, that Murtzuple killed Alexius that night in prison. It appears that this conference was held in the winter; and that the partition treaty, consequent on the death of Alexius, was signed in March 1204.

trable to the arts of Murtzuple; and the arrival of some Latin cavalry terminated the discussion. The cruel policy of Murtzuple suggested the idea of evading for the future a similar demand by the murder of Alexius: and he was put to death that same night in prison. His tragical fate was soon known in the Christian camp; and a solemn treaty was then signed by the French and Venetians, that, in the event of the capture of Constantinople, the booty should be equally divided between the two people, after the republic had been satisfied their pecuniary demands. Six persons should be appointed by each of the allied powers for the purpose of electing an emperor. The fortunate object of their choice should have the fourth part of the city, with the palaces of Blachernæ and Bucoleon; and the rest of the metropolis of Greece was to be equally partitioned among the Venetians and the French. All claims of the Greek empire upon the homage of the republic of Venice were to be renounced; and the doge was to be the only individual who was not to acknowledge the feudal superiority of the emperor. In order to balance as nearly as possible the power and consequence of the French and Venetians, the patriarch was to be chosen from the nation to which the emperor did not belong.* CHAP. III.

* Baluzius, 536. Muratori, Rer. Scrip. Ital. XII. 326.

CHAP. III.

The invaders, after they had taken these precautions against lawlessness, prepared to consummate their boldness. In the first siege the operations by sea had given possession of the city to the Venetians, and the French were emulous of their glory. All the soldiers embarked; and the vessels were impelled against the walls near the palace of the Blachernæ, on the side of the port. But their attacks, though fierce and dreadful, were unavoidably desultory, for a perfect line of advance was not formed; the Latins were repulsed with loss, and the Greeks congratulated themselves on the safety of their capital. Though Constantinople, on the side of the Propontis, seemed more accessible than through other fortifications, yet the Venetians declined the war in that quarter, because the current was strong, and some sudden gust of wind might perhaps drive the ships from their anchorage. On the fourth day the attack was renewed at the accustomed parts; and the invaders guarded against a repetition of defeat, by lashing the vessels two by two; and it was thought that no station of the Greeks could resist the double assault. For some hours the Greeks and Latins waged a distant war of arrows and darts; but about noon the wind drove the vessels against the walls; the French and Venetians leaped upon the ramparts, and the

April 8. 1204.

the soldiers on board the Paradise and Pilgrim, commanded by the bishops of Troyes and Soissons, were the first to whom the Grecian towers yielded. The gates were soon in the possession of the Latins; the knights galloped through the streets in such a noble array, that many of their terrified foes fled from the city; and Murtzuple shut himself up in his palace. In the struggle between grief and rage, the Greeks made a momentary rally; but a German count dispersed the re-formed squadrons by setting fire to the city,* and by that cruel means diverted their attention. The victors reposed that night amidst the subjugated towers and palaces, and in the morning it was found that Murtzuple, his wife, and many of the despairing people, had fled from the city.† CHAP. III.

Complete victory. April 12. 1204.

The conquest of the seat of the Grecian empire was achieved, and the triumphant barbarians had the choice of mercy or revenge. But the ferocity to which they were indebted for success, was not readily extinguished; and they abandoned themselves to the usual vices of conquerors.

Sack of Constantinople.

* Gunther, p. 15. This was the third fire. Villehardouin (No. 130,) says it lasted a night and a day, and burnt more houses than were contained in any three towns of France.

† Villehardouin, 120—130.

CHAP. III.

querors. In their work of blood they found willing auxiliaries in the Latin population, who had contributed to the luxury of the inhabitants of Constantinople without conciliating their respect and kindness. Two thousand Greeks became victims of the rage of conquest, and the malignity of long concealed hatred. The scenes of female violation need not be described.* The palaces of the rich, and the meanest houses of the poor, were explored for plunder, by the cruel diligence of the victors. Their sacrilegious hands tore away the ornaments of churches; the coffins of the emperors were broken open, and the moulded imperial vestments were stripped from the corpse of Justinian. Their destruction of the rich and beautiful altar of the church of St. Sophia would pass as an ordinary circumstance in the history of sieges; but the annals of profanation have seldom presented us with an instance of a vulgar courtezan, the priestess of the furies, seating herself in the chair of the patriarch, and singing a bacchananial song to the corresponding actions of the surrounding soldiers and mob. The marquis of Montferrat, and the French and Venetian ecclesiastics, prayed and threatened their

* Pope Innocent describes the crimes of the Crusaders against women and property, in no very gentle terms, p. 538.

their companions; but the voice of reason and religion could not abate the storm of the passions. Nothing was so difficult as to soften the ferocity of these barbarians, and to gain their affections. They were so irritable, that a single word would kindle the flame: it was folly to attempt either to lead them or to make them hear reason.* CHAP. III.

Yet occasionally a ray of virtue pierced the dark scenes of horror, and shone with bright and benignant influence. A Venetian merchant was bound to Nicetas, the Grecian historian, by the pleasing obligation and honourable tie of gratitude. The Italian longed to display the ardour and sincerity of his feelings; and as soon as the rapine commenced, he placed himself as a sentinel opposite the door of his benefactor. He was armed like a Crusader; and as he could converse in most of the languages of Europe, his speech corresponded with his appearance. For a while the men whom he wished to deceive passed him, on his assurance that he was guarding the mansion in obedience to the orders of the chiefs. But when the soldiers were maddened by indulgence in savageness, and their avidity for plunder increased as the objects of

* Nicetas, p. 283.

CHAP. III. gratification were exhausted, the merchant saw that his protection would soon be but of small avail. He therefore told his friend, that unless he quickly left Constantinople, he would lose his liberty or life, and his family would become subject to the license of victory. Forced then to abandon his home and property, Nicetas, accompanied by his wife and children, entrusted himself to the conduct of the Italian. At every step they were joined by some of the Greeks, who were flying through the streets, and who, in the extremity of despair, sought for safety even in the companionship of their unarmed countrymen. The scenes of sensuality which every where presented themselves, compelled husbands and fathers to surround their female friends, and to command them to disfigure their faces by dirt. The wild glances of a French soldier fell however on a girl, whose charms shone through every attempted concealment or disguise. The licentious wretch pressed his way through the trembling crowd, and snatched the object of his brutal passion from the arms of her aged and helpless father. Nicetas invoked the name of Heaven, and called on his companions to save the virgin from dishonour, and her parent from premature and wretched death. The ruffian smiled in mockery on their misery and helplessness. But so venerable was the appearance

pearance of the old man, and so affecting were the shrieks and tears of his child, that the French soldiers, whom the circumstance had drawn to the spot, indignantly tore their comrade away, and virtue had its triumph. The noble Venetian conducted his friends beyond the walls, and Nicetas gained repose and safety on the Asiatic side of the Bosphorus. CHAP. III.

The heralds of the army proclaimed the orders of the barons, that all the plunder should be carried into three churches, preparatory to its distribution. But injustice and selfishness went hand in hand; and many of the soldiers, both of high and low condition, secreted the dear bought spoils. But all those who were convicted of self-appropriation, expiated their crime by death; and the place of execution was crowded.* The French absolved themselves of all pecuniary claims on the part of the Venetians; and in the division of the remainder of the *money* that was collected, twenty marks were given to a knight, ten to a horse serjeant, Division of the plunder.

 and

* Villehardouin, 132—134. Et de l'embler cels qui en fu revoiz sachiez que il en fu fais granz justice. Et assez en i ot de penduz. Li Cuens de Sain Pol en pendi un suen Chevalier l'escu al col, qui en avoit retenu. Et mult i ot de cels qui en retendrent des petez et des grands: Mês ne fu mie seu. Baluzius, 535. Ramusio, 90—95.

CHAP. III. and five to a foot soldier. The rest of the booty was divided; and the only notion we can obtain of its value, was the offer made to the French by the mercantile Venetians of giving in exchange for the whole of it four hundred marks to a knight, two hundred to a priest and a horseman, and one hundred marks to an ordinary soldier.*

Vengeance of the Croises on the fine arts.

The misfortunes of a city may be repaired by future prosperity, the disgrace of defeat may be effaced by subsequent glory; and the sympathy of after ages for the demolition of edifices, and the waste of property, is softened by the reflection,

* Cont. of Archb. of Tyre in Martenne, V. 667. "Since "the creation of the world," says Villehardouin, "there "never was so much booty found in any conquered city." In the same strain Baldwin remarks, in a letter to the Pope, the gold and silver, the silk, the gems, and precious stones, and all those things which are accounted riches, were found in more abundance than all the Latin world could furnish. Villehardouin says that there fell to the share of the French five hundred thousand marks, and ten thousand horses. It is difficult to understand that so much coin fell into the hands of the conquerors; yet the specification of horses forbids the idea that the sum expresses value and not specie. However, in another place he has said that fifty thousand marks were paid to the Venetians: and that the surplus, namely one hundred thousand marks, was paid among the soldiers. Villehardouin, No. 134, 135

flection, that the tomb has long since closed upon the sufferers. But there are calamities which extend their influence to all ages and countries; and a liberal selfishness will kindle indignation when barbarism has not spared the noble monuments which genius has reared. By the different sources of purchase and plunder, Constantine had adorned his city with the sculpture and statuary of the Pagan world. The most beautiful Grecian temples were converted into churches, and though in the course of time penal laws were enforced against heathen worship, yet the pride of ancestry guarded the monuments of ancient fame, till in the eighth century the world became divided into the opposite factions of the admirers and the haters of image worship. The statues and pictures of Christian saints and martyrs should alone have been the objects of the fury of the Iconoclasts, but the blind zeal of party and superstition hurled into the gulph of destruction the marble representations of heathen virtue and greatness, and for one hundred and twenty years the fine arts were the victims of theological controversy. The silent and mouldering effects of time were less injurious than the anger, hatred, ignorance, and fanaticism of man. In days of sedition, public edifices were set on fire, but the wantonness and malice of the mob were more destructive than the

CHAP. III. the flames. Notwithstanding all these causes of ruin, Constantinople had enough statues yet remaining to gratify the revenge of the Latins, whose envy was inflamed by the fancied superior learning and taste of the Greeks. The barbarians, devoid of all love of the beautiful and fair, destroyed a figure of Juno, which had formerly been at Samos, and which was so tremendously colossal, that eight oxen could scarcely draw its head from the forum of Constantine to the palace of Bucoleon, after the French had made the mutilation. Two celebrated figures of a man and an ass, formed by order of Augustus, on occasion of a fortunate omen before the battle of Actium. A beautiful statue of Venus receiving the apple of discord; an exquisite Helen,* in all the freshness and modesty of youth, could not command the admiration of the iron-hearted French and Venetians. An obelisk of varied and tasteful workmanship, surmounted by a female figure, which moved by the least agitation of the air, and was, for that reason,

* What, observes Nicetas, shall I say of the beauteous Helen; of her, who brought together all Greece against Troy? Did she mitigate these immitigable, these iron-hearted men? No; nothing like it could even she effect; who had before enslaved so many spectators with her beauty.

reason, called the servant of the winds. An equestrian statue, the Bellerophon, adorned the square of Mount Taurus. The Hippodrome had a colossal statue of Hercules, perhaps the work of Lysippus, and the ornament successively of Tarentum and Rome. The statue was of a hero in repose. His lion's skin (that looked formidable even in brass) was thrown over him. He was sitting, without a quiver, a bow, or a club. His right leg was bent at the knee; his head gently reclined on his left hand, and his countenance was full of dejection. And yet this Hercules the barbarians did not spare! Such of the venerable monuments of antiquity as were in marble were broken or destroyed, and such as were in bronze were melted into coin or various utensils.* The guilt of this savage destruction CHAP. III.

* I have mentioned only a *few* of the most memorable pieces of statuary in Constantinople. The aggregate merit of the collection, it is difficult to ascertain. Nicetas (our only original authority) can seldom be depended on for strict accuracy: his hatred of the invaders is, at least, equal to his love of truth, and his general style is bombastical and inflated. His account of the destruction of the statues is not contained in the common editions of his works. Fraud and shame, as Harris says, made the editors leave it out. It is printed, however, in the eighth vol. of Fabricius, Bibl. Græc. and the first vol. of Banduri, Imperium Orientale. In several dissertations in the eleventh and twelfth volumes of

CHAP. III. destruction lies chiefly on the French: for the four bronze horses in the square of St. Mark in Venice, shew that at least in one instance the more refined Venetians were satisfied with the milder crime of robbery.

The boldness of a few thousand soldiers* had been rewarded by the subjugation of the largest city in the world, the injuries of the Crusaders were avenged, and nothing now remained to complete the degradation of Greece, than to invest a barbarian with the Roman purple. The eyes

of the memoirs of the Gottingen Society, Heyne has given a catalogue of the Constantinopolitan collection, and has examined the history of their ruin with philosophy and taste.

* The number of the united French and Venetians was only twenty thousand. There were four hundred thousand men capable of bearing arms in Constantinople. Et bien en durent nostre Seignor loer, que il n'avoient mie plus de vingt mil homes armez entre uns et altres, et par l'aie de Diex si avoient pris de quatre cens mil homes ou plus; et en la plu fort ville qui fust en tot le munde, qui grant ville fust et la mielz fermée. Villehardouin, No. 133. The amount of the force of the Venetians when they left Venice, is thus stated by Sanudo, in his Vite de Duchi di Venezia (Muratori, Rerum Italicarum Scriptores, vol. xxii. p. 528). E questo stuolo d'armata fu di Galere, 60. Navi, 240. Uscieri, 20, e—fino al numero di 300. Vele e poi gente d'arme (come scrive il Blonde e Marcantonio Sabellico) cavalli 450 e fanti 8000 in esse.

eyes of every one were fixed on the marquis of Montferrat and the count of Flanders, for they were the most distinguished generals among the Latins.* The barons dreaded lest the rejected candidate should, in spleen and discontent, imitate the treachery of the count of Tholouse on the formation of the kingdom in Jerusalem,† and therefore it was determined that the emperor should bestow upon the other in feudal tenure the island of Candia, and all the Grecian states on the other side of the canal. Twelve electors were then appointed; six on the part of the Venetians, and six for the French, and their consciences were bound by a solemn obligation to allow merit alone to the crowned. The choice fell upon the count of Flanders.‡ CHAP. III.

The

* Dandalo was not thought of, for he was already the sovereign of a state. The constant residence of the emperor in Constantinople was necessary, and pride forbad the Venetians from wishing to change their seat of government.

† The treachery of the count of Tholouse was accurately remembered. The barons said, that Raymond, after the election of Godfrey, was so highly indignant, that he persuaded many of the knights to return to Europe. The new and feeble state was consequently in the greatest peril. Villehardouin, No. 136.

‡ The debates of the electors were not minuted and published. In the absence of the detail, Du Cange rationally conjectures that the opinion was started and prevailed, that if the count of Flanders were chosen, he might expect the friendship

CHAP. III.

Election of a Latin emperor.

May.

The bishop of Soissons, one of the electors, announced to the anxious multitude the name of their future lord; and the barons and knights, agreeably to the Byzantine custom, elevated the emperor on a buckler, and bore him into the church of St. Sophia. When the pomp of magnificence and dignity was prepared, the coronation took place. The Papal legate threw the imperial purple over Baldwin; the soldiers joined with the clergy in crying aloud, "he is "worthy of reigning;" and the splendour of conquest was mocked by the Grecian ceremony of presenting to the new sovereign a tuft of lighted wool, and a small vase filled with bones and dust, as emblems of the perishableness of grandeur, and the brevity of life.

General remarks on the empire of the Latins in Greece.

The establishment of the Latins in Constantinople was the important though unlooked for issue of the fifth crusade: but their dominion lasted only fifty-seven years. The history of that period forms a part of the annals of the Lower Empire, and not of the holy wars. But we may remark, generally, that in a very few years

friendship of his former neighbours, the kings of France; but that the marquis of Montferrat could not support the empire by an equal assistance from the various divided sovereignties of Italy.

years fortune ceased to smile on the conquerors. CHAP. III.
Their arrogant and encroaching temper awakened the jealousy of the king of Bulgaria. The fierce mountaineers, who had so often insulted the majesty of the Roman empire, now redeemed themselves from the sin of rebellion, by ceaseless war on the usurpers of their former masters' throne. The change of the Greek ritual into the service of the Latin church, was a subject of perpetual murmur and discontent. The feudal code of the kingdom of Jerusalem was violently imposed on the people, in utter contempt of their manners and opinions. The Greeks, too, were not admitted into any places of confidence in the government, and the nobility gradually retired from Constantinople, and associated themselves with the princes of the deposed royal family. Several of those princes formed states out of the ruins of the empire, and Manuel Palcologus,* the emperor of Nice, descendant of Lascaris, son-in-law of the usurper Alexius, had the glory of recovering the July 1261.
throne of the Cæsars, and of finally expelling the usurpers from Constantinople. On the Asiatic

* He was the stock of the Paleologi who reigned at Constantinople till the capture of that city by the Turks, in the year 1453.

CHAP. III. Asiatic side of the Bosphorus the Latins never had much power.

The jealousy which Genoa entertained of her great rival, Venice, was one of the most active causes of the fall of the Latin empire. In the eleventh and twelfth centuries, commercial concessions had often purchased for Constantinople the military and naval aid of the sovereign of the Adriatic; and at the time of the fifth crusade, the empire appeared to acknowledge the equality of the republic. The imperial throne gained the friendship of other Italian princes, and the Pisans as well as the Venetians, had almost unlimited commerce with the Grecian states. Each of these allies had its church and its exchange in Constantinople; its consuls decided the causes of their respective citizens, and both nations enjoyed the rare and blessed privilege of exemption from payment of public taxes. In the middle of the twelfth century, Genoa had obtained commercial immunities; but it does not appear that they were so extensive as those which had been acceded to the Venetians and Pisans. When the Crusaders captured Constantinople, the commerce of the Black Sea was open to the Venetians, a commerce, which before that event had only been slightly enjoyed by

by the Italians.* The Genoese, alarmed at the maritime progress of the Venetians, took up arms against them; fortune befriended the inferior power, and in the year twelve hundred and fifteen a treaty was concluded, whereby the Genoese were confirmed in the commercial privileges which they had enjoyed under the Greek emperor. But the political situation of the Venetians continued a great source of superiority, and their rivals incited and assisted† the Greeks to throw off the Latin yoke, and recapture Byzantium.‡ CHAP. III.

* Marin, Storia civile e politica del commerzio de' Veneziani, vol. iv. p. 145, &c. cited in Heeren, Essai sur l'Influence des Croisades, 2 partie, 1 sec.

† So much superior to the religious prejudices of the age were the commercial republics of Italy, that the Venetians took Constantinople in defiance of the orders of the Pope, and the Genoese dethroned the emperor, although he was supported by his Holiness.

‡ Although the Greeks recovered Constantinople, yet most of the Archipelago and Proper Greece, from Thessaly southwards, continued for years to belong to the Latins.

CHAP. IV.

THE SIXTH CRUSADE.

State of the East during the fifth Crusade.....History of Antioch.....Effects in Palestine of the fifth Crusade.....Death of the sovereigns of Jerusalem..... Mary, the new queen.....Her marriage with John de Brienne.....Another Crusade instigated by Innocent III.....Letters of Innocent to Muselman princes.....Character of De Courcon, preacher of the sixth Crusade.....Fourth council of Lateran .....Extent of the ardour for a holy war.....Hungary and Lower Germany send the chief Crusaders Criminal excesses of the Croises.....Their useless pilgrimages.....Defection of the king of Hungary .....Fresh Crusaders.....Change of crusading operations.....Siege and capture of Damietta..... Arrival in Egypt of English Crusaders.....Events subsequent to the capture of Damietta...The Croises take the road for Cairo.....The legate refuses favourable terms of peace.....Consequences of his violence.....Damietta surrendered to the Muselmans.....The emperor Frederic II.....His marriage with the heiress of Jerusalem.....His disputes with the Popes.....He sails to Acre.....His friendship with the Moslems.....The recovery of the sepulchre, and other advantageous results of his crusade.

WHILE

CHAP. IV.

State of the east during the fifth crusade.

WHILE the barons of France were preparing for the fifth Crusade, the remnants of the Latins of the east enjoyed repose on the coast of Palestine. They were generally overlooked by the Muselmans in the contest for supremacy between the Atabeks and the family of Saladin. But their greatest security arose more from the misfortunes than from the occupations of their enemies. In 1199 the Nile did not rise to its usual height,* and the subsequent famine of Egypt was felt through all the Muselman countries. The miseries of the Egyptians were unexampled. The streets of every town were strewed with dead bodies, and when the vilest descriptions of food had been exhausted, men arrested the progress of the demon of famine by eating the flesh of men. There are degrees even in cannibalism, but the Egyptians must have carried it to the extremity, for women were executed in Cairo for sustaining their own lives by devouring their children.† Pestilence is the

 faithful

* Abulfeda, iv. 183. Whenever there was a want of water in Egypt, the Ethiopians were charged with having turned the course of the Nile. The caliph always sent an embassy to the lords of the higher provinces, for permission for the water to descend; and, when the Nile was at its usual heighth, the people sent a complimentary return of thanks to the Ethiopians.

† Abdallatiphus. Hist. Egypt. lib. ii. ch. ii.

CHAP. IV. 1200—1201. faithful attendant on famine; and a year of scarcity was followed by a year of disease. The most populous provinces became festival halls for birds of prey. The shores of the Nile were covered with dead bodies. So numerous were the funerals in the cities, that it became at length impossible to perform that last sad act of humanity with decency, and carcasses were thrown into the fields, or collected into heaps. Of those who died of famine and disease, no calculation was made, and the Arabic historians dismiss the dreadful subject with the remark, that God alone could reckon the number.

The Christians, in consequence of their convenient situation for commerce, did not suffer the extremities which depopulated Egypt, but they fully shared in a calamity of another description. Syria, Mesopotamia, and Palestine were almost ruined by an earthquake. Acre, Tripoli, Tyre and Damascus felt the storm in various degrees; superstition engendered the idea that it was the awful convulsion of nature which was to precede the last judgment, and the idea was strengthened by the fact that Jerusalem, the sacred city, had not suffered like the rest.* The waste of edifices was easily restored,

* Abulfeda. IV. 195.

stored, for common Asiatic dwellings are simple and of moderate cost. But the fortifications of Acre had been extensive and substantial, and much time and expense were used in the re-edification. The treasures of the king and of the military orders purchased the materials, and the Muselman prisoners assisted in the labour! The stern ferocity of soldiers has no respect for genius or literature, and the Persian poet Sadi, at that time a captive, worked like the meanest hewer of stones.* CHAP. IV.

History of Antioch. A. D. 1193-1205.

But before we continue the history of the Christians in their few cities in Palestine, we must bring down the annals of Antioch from the conclusion of the third Crusade to the close of the fifth. We have seen that the victories of the duke of Suabia restored independence to the principality, and from subsequent events it appears that Bohemond the Third was once more upon his throne. Between two neighbouring states motives to war are frequent; the eastern frontier of Palestine was the scene of

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* I met with the notice of this curious circumstance respecting Sadi in Michaud's Histoire des Croisades, vol. 3. p. 357. M. Langlès found the anecdote in the Persian author Daulet Chah, and inserted a notice of it in the Magazin Encyclopédique, 1796. tome 2. p. 477. A merchant of Aleppo redeemed Sadi from Christian captivity.

CHAP. IV. the altercation of Christians, but Armenia was generally compelled to own the superiority of the Latins at Antioch. In the proudest days of the Persian and Byzantine empires, Armenia had been both the occasion and the theatre of imperial wars, and she fluctuated in her allegiance till the reign of Theodosius the younger, when a territorial partition terminated the animosity of her rival lords. The Armenian provinces of the empires experienced the political revolutions of their respective states, but in the conflicts between the Seljukians and the Grecians some dawnings of independence appeared among the Christian lords of Mount Taurus. In the eleventh century several Armenians, eminent for birth and military accomplishments, attained different steps of power, and in the following age both the Latins and Greeks acknowledged the *kingdom* of the Less Armenia. Kaghic Basile (a name unmusical to European ears) was a man who outstripped his countrymen in the race of ambition, and his dominions comprised much of Cilicia and much of Cappadocia. Christianity had made some impression on Armenia in very early ages of the church, but from the time of Constantine it had been the rule of the faith and the morals of all the people. Armenia was however branded with the

the name of schismatic, for in the world of opinions respecting the incarnation, she adopted the heresy of Eutyches, that the divine nature alone existed in Jesus Christ. The presence of the European population in Asia had been witnessed with joy by the Armenians as the completion of an old and national expectation, that the people of Rome would one day come into the east, and redeem the holy land. After the formation of the French and Italian states in Syria and Palestine, there was some intercourse of friendship between the Armenians and the new settlers. But the union was not cordial or lasting; religious and national distinctions kept the people asunder, and the princes were intent upon aggrandisement and ambition.* Under the pretence of concerting general measures of policy, Bohemond drew Rupin, the lord of Armenia, to Antioch, and in violation of public right put him in prison, and invaded his dominions. Livon, the brother of Rupin, prepared every method of fraud and force to revenge the wrong. A crafty politician rather than a valiant warrior, Bohemond aimed at the annexation of Armenia to Antioch, by imprisoning its sove- CHAP. IV. 1194.

 reign.

* Haithon, Hist. Orient. c. 9. 14. M. Edessa; vol. 9. p. 276, of Notices des MSS. du Roi. La Lignage d'Outremer, art. rois d'Armenie, the Chronological Tables of De Guignes, vol. 1. p. 432. Mosheim, Eccl. Hist. vol. 1. p. 337.

CHAP. IV. reign. He proposed a conference between himself and Livon, and desired that each prince should come unattended. Livon anticipated the treachery of his fellow sovereign, and concealed two hundred horsemen in the forest near the place of conference. After some moments had been passed in reciprocal courtesies and formal discussion, a troop of armed men at the signal of Bohemond appeared and surrounded Livon. The Armenian prince gave the note of alarm, and his soldiers started from their retreat. Their courage and numbers were irresistible, and they not only rescued their master, but took Bohemond himself prisoner. This event gave the preponderance of power to Armenia. The principality of Antioch was declared to be a fief of its successful rival; and before the two princes were set at liberty, Raymond, the eldest son of Bohemond, was married to Alice, a daughter of Rupin, and the issue of the marriage, the contending parties agreed, should inherit the states of Armenia and Antioch. About the year 1200 Raymond died, and left a son, named Rupin. Bohemond designed him for his successor, and his pretensions were recognized by the states of Antioch and Armenia. The regency of Tripoli was bestowed upon Bohemond, the younger son of Bohemond III.

with

with a promise of the absolute possession of his vicarious state, if he should support young Rupin in his hereditary rights to Antioch. Bohemond the regent thought that on the death of his brother Raymond he should have been looked upon as the heir to the principality of Antioch. Discontent took possession of him, and quickly ripened into hostility; he revolted against his father, and by the aid of some Templars and Hospitallers, drove the lawful owner from the banks of the Orontes. The old man, however, recovered his authority, for the regent was abandoned by his allies. Bohemond the prince died in the year of the pestilence in Egypt. The annals of Antioch are obscured with treachery and blood: and the cloud is particularly thick over the period of which we are writing. From some faint glimmerings of light it appears that Livon of Armenia recovered, but could not retain Antioch, and that the authority of Bohemond IVth. the usurper, was generally paramount. In 1205, he acknowledged the feudal superiority of the new emperor of Constantinople,* and in the three subsequent years

CHAP. IV.

* The largest part of the Flemish force which was destined for the general purposes of the fifth crusade did not join Baldwin. It sailed from Flanders to Marseilles, and then pursued its course to the holy land, while the rest of the

CHAP. IV. years he exercised various rights of sovereignty.*

Effects in Palestine of the fifth Crusade.

We may now return to the general history of Palestine. The successful heroism of the French adventurers before Constantinople alarmed the Muselmans, and Saphadin gladly concluded a treaty for six years peace with the Christians. Sinners only and not heroes, repentant pilgrims and not hostile bands, were therefore the new visitors of the shores of Syria. The murderers of the bishop of Wurtzburgh expiated their crime in the holy land, and at the conclusion of various penances, a sentence of three years abode in that country was pronounced by the pope on a wretch, who avowed that during the famine in Egypt he had slain and eaten his own wife and daughter. But Palestine soon again became

the Crusaders were conducting the first siege of Constantinople. The fate of most of the impatient Flemings was death: but some obscurity surrounds the circumstances of their history. Others allied themselves with Bohemond IV. The wife of Baldwin was at Antioch, and directly the news arrived of the elevation of her husband to the imperial throne, Bohemond saluted her by the title of empress, and did homage to her for his principality. Villehardouin, 52, 120. Sanutus, 203, 204. Cont. of Arch. of Tyre in Martenne, V. 656, &c.

* Cont. of Archb. of Tyre, v. 648. Sanutus, 201.

became the theatre of ambition and of glory. Almeric and his wife died, and Mary, the daughter of Isabella and Conrad of Tyre, was the new ideal queen of Jerusalem, while Hugh de Lusignan, son of Almeric by his first wife, was proclaimed king of Cyprus. Hugh had married the princess Alice, half sister of the young queen, and daughter of Henry count of Champagne, and Isabella. There was not at that time any nobleman of rule or influence in Palestine capable of governing the state; and the ecclesiastical and civil potentates resolved, that Philip Augustus of France should provide a husband for Mary. The bishop of Acre and the lord of Cesarea were the deputies; and the French king received them with a kindness which corresponded to his sense of the distinction that was paid him. Philip Augustus fixed his eyes on John de Brienne, son of the count of Brienne in Champagne. The favourite was wise in council, and experienced in war, and well known among the knights of Europe. Though the sovereignty over Jerusalem was titular, yet the command of the Christian army in Palestine, and the possession of a young queen so desirable as the ambassadors painted the daughter of Almeric, were circumstances so flattering to the imagination of an aspiring cavalier, that John de Brienne received the gift with joy; and the deputies

1206. Death of the sovereigns of Jerusalem. The new queen.

were

CHAP. IV. were dismissed with the promise that in two years he would join them in Palestine with a powerful band.* The bishop of Acre and the lord of Cesarea were naturally disposed to exaggerate the success of their mission; and on their return to the holy land, their accounts of the impression which they had made on Europe elated the Christians to insolence, and depressed the Saracens into gloom. The truce of six years was on the point of expiring, and Saphadin offered to renew it, and to resign to the regency any ten castles or towns they might select, to be retained by them in perpetuity if the Saracens broke their faith. The knights of St. John, and those of the Teutonic order, argued strenuously for the acceptance of this offer; but the spirit of party was always the enemy of Palestine, and the Templars and clergy declared for war.†

September 1210. Her marriage.

At the appointed time John de Brienne arrived at Acre: the next day he received the hand of Mary, and shortly afterwards was crowned, and received the oaths of allegiance of the barons. Only three hundred knights had participated in his hopes of restoring the fortunes of the holy land, for the enthusiasm and love

* Sanutus, 205. † Sanutus, 206.

love of glory of the western chivalry were diverted into new channels. England* and Germany were torn by internal disturbances, the court of France was watching the turn of events, and Pope Innocent employed the penitents in putting an end to the heresy of the Albigenses. The destroyers of heretics and of infidels were alike praiseworthy; and a crusade into the south of France was less dangerous than a voyage to Syria. From these various causes the Muselmans in Asia were forgotten or disregarded.† As peace had been refused, Saphadin marched an CHAP. IV.

* Innocent's letter to John was short and cold. See it in Rymer, i. 104, new edit.

† "Pope Innocent III. having lately learned the trick of employing the army of pilgrims in bye-services, began now to set up a trade thereof. He levied a great number of Crusaders, whom he sent against the Albigenses in France. These were reputed heretics, whom his holiness intended to root out with all cruelty; that good shepherd knowing no other way to bring home a wandering sheep than by worrying him to death. He freely and fully promised the undertakers the self same pardons and indulgences as he did to those who went to conquer the holy land; and very conscionably requested their aid only for forty days, hoping to chop up these Albigenses at a bit. The place being nearer, the service shorter, the work less, the wages the same with the voyage into Syria, many entered themselves in this employment, and neglected the other." Fuller, History of the Holy War, book iii. ch. 18.

CHAP. IV. an army to the country round Tripoli. The king displayed his valour in many a fierce encounter; and though he never conquered his foes, yet he broke the impression of the enemy, and saved his states from utter annihilation. He foresaw the approaching ruin of the holy cause; every day the Saracens made some acquisition; and the Latin barons, by every opportunity, and for every pretext, returned to Europe. He wrote therefore to the Pope that the kingdom of Jerusalem consisted only of two or three towns, and that the civil wars between the sons of Saladin alone suspended its fate.*

Another Crusade instigated by Innocent III.

Every project of ambition which the daring genius of Gregory VII. had formed, was embraced by the ardent spirit of Innocent III. In raising a fabric of ecclesiastical policy on the ruins of gospel liberty, the importance of guiding the military arm of Europe was not lost sight of.† The commands of the Vatican were hurled upon every part of Europe, calling men to exterminate infidelity. In a circular letter to

* Sanutus, 206. Cont. William in Martenne, p. 680.

† He had also "the office of bearing the bag and what "was put into it, as contributed to this action from pious "people, and expended but some few drops of the showers "he received." Fuller, Holy War, book 1. ch. 2.

to the sovereigns and clergy, the Pope declared CHAP. IV.
that the time was at last arrived, when the most happy results might be expected from a confederation of the Christian powers. Such men as fought faithfully for God, would obtain a crown of glory; but those who, on the present urgent occasion, refused to serve him, would be punished everlastingly. "Jesus Christ has "kindly pointed out to you the way for your "redeeming yourselves from the vices and frivolities of the world. But he will condemn "you of gross ingratitude and infidelity, if you "neglect to march to his succour in a time "when he is in danger of being driven from a "kingdom which he acquired by his blood. "The Muhammedan heresy, the beast foretold "by the spirit, will not live for ever; 'its age "is 666.' On the very spot, on Mount Thabor "itself, where the Redeemer shewed his future "glory to his disciples, the Saracens have "raised a fortress for the confusion of the Christian name. They hope, by means of this "fortress, to possess themselves of Acre, and "then to subjugate all the holy land, at present "almost destitute of sacred soldiers." His holiness then remitted the punishment of sins, not only for those who went, but for such as contributed largely to the expenses of the enterprise. The protection of St. Peter was promised

CHAP. IV.

mised to the families and fortunes of the pilgrims. They who had bound themselves to pay usury were released from their oaths; and secular power should compel the Jews to remit their claims. Three years was the time for which the faithful were to enlist under the banners of Christ: and the wealthy clergy and nobility were to support the poor but faithful pilgrims. The maritime powers were to contribute their ships. The war against the Saracens was to be the permanent consideration of Europe. The laws should be put in force which forbad the sale of warlike materials to the enemy.* The indulgences were revoked which had been granted to those who quitted their lines in order to exterminate heresy in Provence, and infidelity in Spain.†

Letters of Innocent to the Muselman princes.

In a letter to the sultan of Aleppo, written in 1212, the Pope had complimented the Saracen upon his respect for Christianity, and implored him to regard with favour, and protect to the utmost

* It seems to have been the general rule throughout the Crusades, that Christians should not sell military weapons to infidels. I observe that Charlemagne prohibited his subjects from selling arms to foreigners of any nation or religion. Capitularia, lib. iii. cap. 75, vol, ii. p. 186.

† This letter was encyclical through all Christian Europe. See Labbe, Concilia, vol. ii. p. 119—123.

utmost of his power, the patriarch of Antioch and his church.* But when some probability CHAP. IV.

 appeared

* This complaisance of the Pope brings to recollection the politeness of Hildebrand. In 1076, the king of Morocco granted liberty to some Christians, and permitted them to live freely in his territories. Hildebrand wrote him a handsome letter of thanks. He says he is sure the king had been moved by the spirit of God; and that both he and the king worshipped, believed, and trusted in the same God, though the modes of their adoration and faith were different. See this curious epistle in Labbe, vol. xi. ep. Greg. lib. iii. Ep. 21. Equally liberal with Hildebrand was the emperor Manuel Comnenus. He wished to conciliate the followers of the Arabian prophet: and for that reason he was anxious to expunge from the Greek catechisms the anathema against the God of the Muselmans, whom the Christians chose to think was a different Being from the object of their own adoration. The sticklers for orthodoxy were alarmed; and the din of polemics resounded through the empire. A *moderate* party, however, reconciled the combatants; and it was agreed that the *imprecation* of the catechism should be transferred from the God of Muhammed to Muhammed himself, his doctrine, and his sect. Mosheim's Ecclesiastical History, cent. 12. part 2. chap. 3. sec. 17. "We must take "care," says Zebedeus the Roman catholic zealot, "that we "fall not unawares into the heresy of Manuel Comnenus, "emperor of Greece, who affirmed that Mahomet's God "was the true God: which opinion was not only rejected "and condemned by the synod, but imputed to the emperor "as extreme madness; being reproached to him also by the "bishop of Thessalonica, in those bitter and strange words "as are not to be named." Bacon's Advertisement touching an Holy War.

CHAP. IV.

appeared that the successor of Urban could, like his great predecessor, arm Europe against Asia, Innocent wrote to Saphadin as the sultan of Cairo and Damascus that the holy land was in possession of the Muselmans, not on account of their virtue, but because of the sins of the Christians. The anger of Heaven was however tempered with mercy; and the time was at hand when that mercy would be shewn in an especial manner. His holiness then in peaceful language solicited Saphadin to resign the holy land to the Christians, and not retain, out of false glory, a country which was the source of more inconvenience than profit to the Moslems.

Character of De Courcon, preacher of the sixth crusade.

The Crusade was preached in every cathedral, and in every church of Western Christendom. The Pope was earnest, and his legates were active. Among those who most loudly and successfully pleaded the cause of religion, was Robert de Courcon; a man inferior in talents and consideration to St. Bernard, but whose fanaticism was as fervent as that of Peter and Fulk. By parentage and birth he was an Englishman; but he had been educated in the university of Paris, and in that famous seat of learning had lived as a friend with a fellow student, who afterwards sat in the papal chair, under the title of Pope Innocent the Third.

The

The associate of his Holiness was promoted to various dignities in the church; his talents for business were employed by Innocent in clerical embassies, and his abilities as a public orator were matured under the care of Fulk de Nuilly. He was the Papal legate in France, and after having appeased the foreign and internal distractions of that kingdom, he quitted Paris (in the year twelve hundred and fifteen,) descended by the way of Burgundy to the southern provinces, left no quarter of the south unvisited; and then, after having traversed with speed and success the western provinces, he returned to the capital. He signalised his zeal for the Christians of the east in the church of every town through which he passed. Twenty years before he had preached the same theme to the same people, as the humble assistant of Fulk. Clad in the Roman purple, and armed with the authority of the vicar of Jesus Christ, the cardinal gave every possible dignity to the office of missionary. But his prudence kept not pace with his zeal, for, like Peter the Hermit, he admitted every one to take the cross. Women, children, the old, the blind, the lame, the lepers, all were enrolled in the sacred militia. The high minded cavaliers felt therefore a great repugnance at becoming his disciples, because such a confusion would naturally injure the success of an ex- CHAP. IV.

CHAP. IV.

pedition, which required skilful co-operation. The multitude of the Crusaders was innumerable, and the voluntary offerings of money which were put into the charitable boxes in the churches, were immense. Philip Augustus contributed the fortieth part of his revenues; and it is singular, that this money was to be employed for purposes of the holy war, agreeably to the directions of the kings and barons of France and England. But the alms of the people of France were not applied exclusively to sacred purposes. Robert de Courcon was openly convicted of peculation, and his papal friend was obliged to remit his own dignity, and intercede with the French prelates, in order to save the legate from punishment.*

Fourth council of Lateran.

The Pope, treading in the steps of his predecessors, convoked a general council for the purpose of chastising vice, condemning heresy, and of inducing the princes and people to undertake the sacred expedition. In the month of November,

* Notice des Manuscrits, tom. vi. p. 603, 613. The talents and generally moral conduct of De Courcon, in time, overcame this blot in his conduct. In 1218, he requested from Honorius the office of legate of the crusade. Pelagius, bishop of Albano, had been already appointed; the Pope, however, added Robert to the commission.

November, 1215, the religious and political authorities assembled in the church of the Lateran, and the greatness of their number, and their exalted rank, testify the zealous preaching of the Pope's legates. There were present the patriarchs of Constantinople and Jerusalem, the ambassador of the patriarch of Antioch, seventy-four metropolitan primates, and three hundred and forty bishops. The abbots and friars numbered eight hundred, but the representatives of the higher clergy could not be calculated. The emperor of Constantinople, the kings of France, England, Hungary, Jerusalem, Arragon, and the sovereigns of many other countries, were represented in the assembly. After some opinions differing from those of the established church had been pronounced odious and damnatory, war against the Saracens was declared to be the most sacred duty of the European world. The usual privileges, such as were mentioned in the Pope's letter, were accorded to the pilgrims. In order, say the decrees of the council, that his Holiness should not be considered a mere preacher of the duties of mankind, he gave to the purposes of the war thirty thousand pounds, besides the maritime expenses of the Roman pilgrims. The patriarch of Jerusalem, the Hospitallers, and Templars, were to be the distributers of the papal bounty; and

CHAP. IV. through the same agency, and for the same purposes, all the clergy (except those who were croises) were for three years to contribute the twentieth part of their ecclesiastical revenues. Referring to the decrees of old councils, tournaments during the three years of the crusade were forbidden, lest the representation of war should draw men's attention from war itself. Civil dissentions were to be suspended, and peace was to reign in the Christian world during all the time of the holy contest.* In the sermons which he preached to the council, Innocent declared his intention of visiting the holy land. The pulpits of Europe announced the grateful intelligence, and the people agreed with

* Concilia, vol. ii. 224, 233. The crusade (the sixth) consequent on the council of the Lateran (A. D. 1215) is divided into three parts. The expedition of Andrew, king of Hungary,—the war in Egypt,—and the campaign in the holy land of the emperor Frederick II. For the first two divisions, my authorities are Abulfeda, Bernardus, Sanutus, Matthew Paris, and the two Continuations of the archbishop of Tyre. The Chronicle of Alberic, a contemporary (edited by Leibnitz) contains some curious particulars respecting the Germans. Another contemporary was Godfrey, monk of St. Pantaleon, whose Annals are contained in the German historians, collected by Freher Marquard. But the richest materials are the third book of the Oriental History of James de Vitri, who was an eye-witness of the siege of Damietta.

with their pastors, that success would be certain, if they were led by the sovereign Pontiff. CHAP. IV.

Extent of the ardour for a new war.

The holy war was again the subject of poetry as well as of preaching, and the castles of the nobility resounded with the songs of the Troubadours.* "Great men are fired by the noble ambition of meriting the glory of this world, as well as the glory of heaven. You who dedicate yourselves to a pious pilgrimage will obtain both. Great God! The Turks have conquered and profaned the holy sepulchre. Let us feel to the bottom of our hearts this mortal disgrace. Let us impress upon our bodies the sign of the cross, and pass the seas: we have a firm and courageous guide, the sovereign Pontiff Innocent.† If there be any thing like loyalty, any thing like bravery in our hearts, we should wish to restore Christ to his inheritance: but we prefer, we love what is evil, and despise what is good. And why? There is no safety in our

 own

* The Troubadours, though spread over most countries, were chiefly patronised by the counts of Provence, with whom the king of France was at war. The grateful minstrels wished to divert the course of hostility from the south of France to the holy land.

† Whether sincerity or artifice prompted the Pope, time would not admit of the disclosure. He died before the sailing of any part of the expedition.

CHAP. IV.

own country, and death in the holy land is the gate of life. Should we hesitate to suffer for him, who did not disdain to suffer for us? Why do not the emperors and the kings terminate their discords and their wars? Oh, that they would make peace, that they would unite for the deliverance of the holy sepulchre, the divine lamp, the true cross, the kingdom of Christ, which have been for so many ages under the dominion of the Turks. Under the dominion of the Turks! At these words, who does not groan with shame and grief? Valiant marquis of Montferrat, your ancestors formerly covered themselves with glory in Syria. Spread then the sacred banners, pass the seas, and by your deeds of arms merit the admiration of men, and the approbation of heaven."*

The necessity of extirpating heresy, and quelling rebellion in the south of France, was the pretence of the French king for not embracing the Crusade. The emperor, Frederic II. feigned to be the faithful son of the church, but his zeal cooled when Otho IV. his rival, died, and instead of travelling to Palestine, he remained in Europe, in order to establish his authority in Apulia

* Raynouard, Choix des Poésies Originales des Troubadours, vol. ii. p. 73, &c. Paris, 1817.

Apulia and Sicily, and to advance the favourite project of himself and family, of making Italy the seat of the empire of the west.* A people who had been the scourge of the first Crusaders, took the lead on this new occasion. In the time of Peter the Hermit, the Hungarians were such young religionists, that they had not embraced half the superstitious usages which had been grafted on Christianity. But in the century that succeeded, they often breathed the hot air of fanaticism; and when the sixth holy war was preached, they aspired to the glory of recovering the sacred sepulchre. Their king, Andrew, incited by the example of his mother, Margaret, the wish of his father, and certain political considerations, made a vow to march to Jerusalem. The dukes of Austria and Bavaria, and indeed all the ecclesiastical and secular potentates of Lower Germany joined their forces to those of the monarch. The united army marched to Spalatro. The ships of Venice, and other ports of

CHAP. IV.

Hungary and Lower Germany are the chief crusaders.

A. D. 1216, &c.

* The Pope and emperor were struggling for supremacy, and the cunning pontiff thought he could get rid of his rival by commanding him to take the cross: and such was the state of the times, that Frederick would not have been considered a Christian if he had refused. Voltaire is right in saying, L'empereur fit le vœu par politique; et par politique il différa le voyage. Essai sur les Mœurs des Nations, chap. 52.

CHAP. IV. of the Adriatic, transported them to Cyprus; and after having enjoyed for awhile the pleasures of an island consecrated to Venus, and the more sober and religious welcomes of the ambassadors from the king of Jerusalem and the military orders, the holy warriors sailed for and arrived at Acre, in company with fresh crowds of Crusaders from Marseilles, Genoa, and Brundisium. The Muselman powers were astonished at, and unprovided for this sudden and large reinforcement of the Latins. The sons of Saphadin were the lords of Syria, while Saphadin himself, retired from the constant toils of royalty, was contented with the respect of the army and people in times of difficulty and danger. The Saracens pressed to the country about Naplausa, but not in sufficient numbers to meet the new Croises, who ravaged the country, and slew thousands of their foes.* But they did not confine their cruelties to the infidels. The soil of Palestine, in the year in which the present Crusaders landed, had been less productive than in most seasons; the soldiers had carried thither no provisions, and when not engaged in distant excursions into the enemy's territories, they took the shorter course of robbing the private and religious houses of the Latins and Syrians.

Criminal excesses of the Croises.

* Abulfeda, iv. 261.

Syrians. The Bavarians were marked as the principal actors in these disgraceful scenes. Pious exercises, however, re-established order. The ecclesiastical chief of the Latin Christians led the army in religious procession across the river of Kishon, to the valley of Jezrael. They bathed in the Jordan, made their pilgrimage to the lake of Genasareth, observed with devout awe the scenes of various miracles performed by Christ, and returned to Acre.* But they soon repaired their wasted strength, and trod with holy reverence the road to the scene of the transfiguration. The ascent to Mount Thabor, however, was difficult; and the summit was defended by a strongly garrisoned tower. Conducted by a Saracenian youth, and stimulated by their own enthusiasm, the armed pilgrims overcame every obstacle, and approached the walls of the fortress. Impetuous valour clamoured for an immediate and furious assault: but the experienced chiefs saw the remoteness of success, and contended that the troops should retire to Acre for the defence of their camp and stores, which would certainly be attacked by those swarms of Muselmans that every day were pouring into Palestine. This council was adopted.

CHAP. IV.

Their useless pilgrimages.

Dec.

* James de Vit. 1229, 30. Bernardus, 821.

CHAP. IV. adopted.* In both these expeditions the Christians made many prisoners, and such of them as were children were baptised by the bishop of Acre, and delivered into the charge of those Latin women who had devoted themselves to a religious life. Attached as much to pilgrimages as to war, the Crusaders went in holy order to Tyre and Sidon; but the inclemency of the season drove them into disorder, and the Saracens made dreadful havoc on their divided parties.† The Christians separated for the remainder of the winter. The kings of Cyprus and Hungary repaired to Tripoli; and if the people were grieved at the death of the former of these princes, their feelings were quickly changed into indignation against the latter. Neither the entreaties nor the threats of the clergy could persuade

* James de Vit. 1130. Herold, 91. Sanutus, 207. Bernardus, 822. Cont. William, 681. Abulfeda, iv. 263. The monkish writers generally ascribe to treachery those actions which mere prudence dictates. They make a bold assertion of treason, and never bring the slightest proof that there was any intercourse between the Saracens and Christians. The king of Jerusalem is thus strikingly mentioned by James de Vitry:—Rex quantum meruit ascendendo, tantum demeruit descendendo. But the king had displayed much personal courage, and he would not have declined the assault except for high and important reasons.

† James de Vit. 1130.

persuade the unstable Andrew to remain in Palestine. Mere restlessness overcame every suggestion of duty. Taking with him most of his soldiers and stores, he traversed Armenia and the Greek empire, spent much time in collecting relics, and at last returned to his kingdom, which had been so deeply exhausted by this expensive expedition, that it did not for years recover its pristine strength. The weak and infirm pilgrims, and such as courted pleasure, went to Acre. The king of Jerusalem, the duke of Austria, and the master of the Hospitallers, took up a strong position on the plains of Cesarea. The Templars, the Teutonick knights, and Walter d'Avesnes, occupied Mount Carmel, and their station was defended by a tower which the Templars had formerly erected, for the defence and protection of the Jerusalem pilgrims.* In the spring of the following year they were joined by new and zealous Crusaders from the north of Germany. Cologne had been the rendezvous, and nearly three hundred vessels sailed from the Rhine. Many of the ships were wrecked by the violence of the autumnal winds, and the remainder anchored off the Portuguese shore. By the aid of the Germans, the queen of Portugal took Alcaçar from the Moors.

CHAP. IV.

Defection of the king of Hungary.

Fresh crusaders. 1218.

Conscience

* James de Vit. 1130, 1.

CHAP. IV. Conscience and valour would be equally satisfied by the slaughter of Saracens, in whatever country they might be; and William I. count of Holland, entreated permission of the Pope to remain a year in Portugal. But Honorius ardently pursued the plans of which Innocent had laid the foundation. Most of the soldiers, too, wished to pass to the holy land; and as crosses were seen in the air pointing to the south, they sailed at the earliest appearance of spring.*

Change of crusading operations.

In the few flourishing days of the Latin kingdom of Jerusalem, when projects of conquest, and not of mere defence, engaged the passions of warriors, the various cities of Syria, on account of the relative situation of countries, were generally more ambitiously regarded than those of Egypt. But subsequently to the fifth, and before the formation of the sixth Crusade, so small a portion of the holy land belonged to the Christians, that politics almost wore the same face as they did at the time of Peter's preaching. Various schemes were formed for the destruction of the Muselman power, and the court of the Vatican revived the politics of Almeric king of Jerusalem. Ambition and cupidity sighed for the possession of the potent and rich country

* James de Vit. 1132. Godef. Mon. ii. p. 385.

country of Egypt. Palestine would be abandoned, were the heart of the Muselman power assailed; and flying from the remembrance of the ensanguined plains of Syria, deeds of renown might be achieved in a land which was associated with few appalling ideas of Christian discomfiture. As soon, therefore, as the Cologne reinforcement arrived, the chiefs assembled in council, and it was agreed that siege should be laid to Damietta, which was looked upon as the key of Egypt.* It was situated on the eastern bank of the Nile, about a mile from the sea;† it was of an oblong shape, and defended on every side, except on those parts which were near the Nile, by a triple wall. A double wall, and a tower in the midst of the river, connected with the city by a chain, formed the defence from naval attacks. CHAP. IV.

A voyage of a few days brought the Christian army within sight of Damietta. The soldiers landed, Siege of Damietta. A. D. May 1218. Nov. 1219.

* Cont. William, p. 682. Godef. Mon. ii. p. 388.

† The modern Damietta is some distance to the south of the city which the Christians besieged, and which was destroyed by the Muselmans, A. D. 1250. Abulfeda, iv. 519. The Egyptians dreaded the reappearance of the Franks, and choked the entrance of the harbour, to prevent the anchorage of large vessels.

CHAP. IV. landed, and encamped on the western side of the Nile. The duke of Austria, the knights of St. John, and the troops of Germany and of the Teutonick order, endeavoured to take the tower, for the purpose of facilitating an attack on the city's walls next the Nile. But their ladders broke, many of the soldiers were precipitated into the water, and the noise of the Egyptian brazen drums and trumpets announced to the camp the fate of the escaladers. Ingenuity assisted valour, and a priest of Cologne, aided by the Teutonick knights, built an immense wooden castle, on the basis of two vessels lashed to each other. The chiefs of the army declared, that all which skill or expense could furnish had been used, and that the world had never witnessed so noble a work. By processions round the cross, by fasting and prayer, heaven was propitiated; in the spirit of fanaticism, or of excellent policy, a saint's day, that of St. Bartholomew, was fixed for the new assault; and in order to banish envy and discontent, and to excite emulation, the gallant band destined for the attack was selected from every nation in the army. At the appointed time the duke of Austria, and three hundred soldiers, took their stations in the gallies, and on the draw-bridge at the top of the tower, and the vessels moved from their anchoring ground towards

towards the castle, amidst the acclamations of their comrades in the camp, and the benedictory vociferations of the priests. The cavaliers made their assault with all the courageous fury which their peculiar circumstances could inspire. The battle lasted for twenty-four hours, and the city of Damietta and the Christian camp resounded at different times with the shouts of victory and the lamentations of defeat. In spite of every precaution, the Muselmans set fire to the ladders of the Franks, and the ensign of the duke of Austria fell beneath the triumphant banner of the Saracens. The acclamations of the people of Damietta enraged the duke and his troops, and the clamourous appeals to heaven of the patriarch and his clergy, kept their courage unallayed. The catapults and balistæ shook the walls of the castle to their foundations, and the garrison were happy in surrendering to the discretion of the besiegers.* CHAP. IV.

Before the joy of the Christians had subsided, news arrived of the death of Saphadin. The power of his house had lately been strengthened

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* Bernardus, 825, 828. Godef. 388, and James de Vit. 1133, 4, who says, that the tears of the people put out the flame which the Greek fire had made: extinxerunt ignem fidelium lachrymæ.

CHAP. IV. by the death of the sultan of Mosul, the last great supporter of the name of the Atabeks. But Saphadin did not live to complete the addition of all Mosul to his empire of Damascus and Egypt. The brother of Saladin has been variously represented, according to the different feelings with which he was regarded. But the Crusaders had such a limited knowledge of oriental affairs, that their invectives cannot be opposed to the reputation which he acquired for virtue and ability. By his own historians he is styled a child of fortune, not that they meant to exclude mental talents from his character. His success was apparent, but the means through which it was obtained were unknown, and the ignorant world attributed to chance events that in truth were the result of either refined and artful policy, or secret treachery and murder. He was an usurper; yet, as was the case, when all the competitors for the throne were sanguinary and remorseless; the higher the abilities, the more signal the success. The brother of Saladin was splendid in his apparel; he preserved all the magnificence and dignity of an oriental court; and left a full and ample treasury.* His second son Coradinus, the prince of Syria and Palestine, did not proclaim the death of his father

* De Guignes, livre 13. Abulfeda, IV. 265—271.

father till he had secured himself in the possession of the royal coffers. Discord and rebellion were universal throughout Egypt, when the news arrived of the death of Saphadin; and his son Camel, lord of that country, was compelled to fly into Arabia for protection from his mutinous people.* CHAP. IV.

After the surrender of the castle of Damietta the acquisition of the city appeared so easy an achievement, that the besieging army sunk into inertness and dissoluteness. The Germans fancied that the success to which they had so much contributed was equivalent to the performance of their vow, and many of them returned to Europe. But the siege of Damietta was not delayed for want of men. Italy sent forth her choicest soldiers, headed by Pelagius and Robert de Courcon as legates of the pope. The counts of Nevers and la Marche, the archbishop of Bourdeaux, the bishops of Meaux, Autun, and Paris headed the valiant youth of France. The English troops were led by the earls of Chester and Arundel, William Longespee, earl of Salisbury, and the baron Harcourt, men celebrated for their heroism and nobility.† For some months Arrival of Croises from England.

* Abulfeda, 271.

† Annals of Waverley in Gale, vol. 2. p. 185. M. Paris, 255. The earl of Salisbury mentioned in the text was the son

CHAP. IV. months after the arrival of this reinforcement distress and discord raged amidst the Europeans. The Nile in its overflow injured their camp, and pestilence and famine thinned their ranks. The cardinal Pelagius distracted their attention from foreign enterprise by the claims which he set up to the distinction of commander in chief. Robert de Courcon fell a victim to disease, and the death of this haughty and ambitious prelate materially detracted from the power and influence of his equally imperious coadjutor. In this time of inaction among the Crusaders, Coradinus came into Egypt for the purpose of quelling a rebellion raised by a soldier of fortune, and reinstated his brother Camel. But before

son of king Henry the Second by fair Rosamond. His Christian name was William, and his wearing a longer sword than was usual gave him his surname.* His half brother, king Richard the First, gave him in marriage Ela, eldest daughter and coheiress of William de Eureux, earl of Salisbury and Rosemer; and also raised him to the title of earl. Ela was grand-daughter of the Patric earl of Salisbury, murdered by Guy de Lusignan. See before, vol. 1. p. 427. note. Longespee was a firm friend of king John, and afterwards of Louis the French monarch: but when John died he forsook Louis, and did homage to Henry the Third. Dugdale's Baronage, vol. 1. p. 176.

* Thus his epitaph, as reported by Matthew Paris, p. 277, says,

Flos Comitum Willielmus obiit, stirps regia, longus,
Ensis vaginam cœpit habere brevem.

before those objects could be achieved, the Christians had time to recover from their misery and folly, and prepare for the renewal of the attack upon Damietta. They attempted the passage of the river, but many of their vessels were destroyed by the Greek fire from the walls. The shore presented a triple line of soldiers, and the bravest of the Christian troops dreaded the attack. But on the night previous to the morning, which was fixed for the decision of the cause, a rebellion broke out among the Muselman soldiers, their posts were deserted, and when daylight appeared the Christians were struck with the general confusion which prevailed among the enemy. The chieftains immediately armed their people, the passage of the Nile was soon effected, and they occupied the enemy's camp, singing the hymn, "we praise "thee, O God," in full assurance, that Heaven had rewarded their virtues and their prayers. The Templars pressed forwards to the city's walls, but the Muselmans in the mean time had rallied round Camel, rebellion was extinguished in a moment, and no further advantage was gained by the Crusaders. The Saracens made frequent sallies. They attacked a bridge which the Christians had thrown across the Nile; but the duke of Austria, with the Templars and

CHAP. IV. 1219.

CHAP. IV. Teutonic knights, repulsed them. The clergy acted as surgeons as well as priests, and though the day was palm Sunday, the only procession, says an eye witness, which the Crusaders made, was one of lances and swords and shields. After this victory the duke of Austria, and many knights, returned to Europe; but their loss was repaired by the bishop of Mantua and new pilgrims from Italy, and plentiful supplies of arms and provisions. From May to August there was a long series of noble endeavours on both sides. The Pisans, Genoese, and Venetians made several attacks on the walls from the ships; but it was not ordained that those nations should be the safety of Israel.* The Saracens fought many a well contested battle with the Christians in their camp. All the Crusaders contended with the bravery of men whose souls were strung by religion and valour, and if any soldiers distinguished themselves above the rest, to the Templars may be given the praise of pre-eminent heroism. The issue of most of those conflicts was adverse to the Moslems. Despair seized the people of Damietta. Hunger and disease were within their walls, and in addition to their misfortunes the Nile did not reach its usual height.

The

* Bernardus, p. 834.

The sultan of Syria had heard with dismay of CHAP. IV.
this perilous state of circumstances. The loss of Damietta appeared inevitable, and he dreaded the speedy appearance of the Christians in Jerusalem. But he resolved that they should never make that place a station of defence. He destroyed the walls, and much of the town; but the tower of David, and the temple of the sepulchre, were saved, on account of veneration to the prophets, a religious exception which made some liberal Christians of the time declare that the name of heretics was more applicable to the Saracens than that of infidels. The sultan of Syria had anticipated the fall of Damietta, the sultan of Egypt despaired of its defence, and no wisdom could calculate the magnitude of the effects which its capture might produce. Prudence suggested the policy of negotiation, and the Latins were therefore offered the piece of the true cross, the city of Jerusalem, and all the prisoners in Syria and Egypt. The Muselmans were to rebuild the walls of the sacred city. Of the whole kingdom of Palestine they only proposed to retain the castles of Karac and Montreal, as necessary for the safe passage of the Mecoan pilgrims and merchants. The evacuation of Egypt was the equivalent expected from the Christians for these important concessions.

CHAP. IV. All the legitimate consequences of the Crusades were at the command of the soldiers of the cross. The king, the French, the earl of Chester, and the Teutonic knights hailed with joy the prospect of the termination of the war. But the Legate, the bishops, the Italians, the Templars, and Hospitallers were deaf to counsels of moderation. They contended that no faith could be reposed upon the promises of infidels, unless peace was made at the point of a victorious sword. The siege had already lasted seventeen months, and it would be disgraceful to fly from the fair prospect of success. Unhappily for the general interests of the Christian cause the mild suggestions of policy were disregarded amidst the clamours of thoughtless valour. Hostilities were recommenced. The besiegers interrupted all communication between the Egyptian army and the garrison of Damietta. Resistance was fruitless, but the Muselmans were too brave and too proud to surrender. The legate and the king assaulted the walls, and soon entered the city, with the same ruthless feelings as had maddened the early Crusaders, when they first leaped on the battlements of Jerusalem. But revenge sought its victims in vain. Damietta was one vast charnel house. Of a population which at the beginning

of

of the siege consisted of more than seventy thou- CHAP. IV.
sand souls, three thousand only were the relics. The conquerors marched through a pestilential vapour. The streets, the mosques, and the houses were strewed with dead bodies. The rich and the poor, the master and the servant, lay with no reference to distinction. The children at the breast had drawn the last remnants of life from their mothers, and were crying for sustenance. The clergy consigned them to the Christian women, but in most cases the cries of the infants had been the last struggles of nature, and they suffered the fate of their parents. From scenes of death the Christians turned to plunder. Damietta was as rich a city as any in Islamism, and the terrible anathemas of the legate could not prevent self-appropriation of spoil. Dominion over the place was given to the king of Jerusalem. The splendid mosque was converted into a Christian church, and dedicated to the Virgin and all the Apostles. But the soldiers were soon compelled to return to the camp, for pestilence was in the city. Life and liberty were granted to the surviving Muselmans on their performing the horrid and melancholy task of cleansing the city from the remains of their relations and friends.*

So

* Alberic Chron. 503, 505. Godef. Mon. 388—400, Abulfeda, IV. 271, &c. Bernardus, VII. 828—838. Cont. William,

CHAP. IV.

Events subsequent to the capture of Damietta.

So great was the terror which the loss of Damietta spread among the Muselmans, that the fortress of Tannis surrendered. By this acquisition, the way into Palestine was open. But instead of urging their advantages, the army passed the winter in luxury and in discord, and in the spring more than half of the soldiers returned to Europe. The power of the legate was supreme, and the king of Jerusalem retired in disgust to Acre. The duke of Bavaria, and many knights from Germany and Italy arrived, as soon as the weather would permit the passage; but they disdained to submit to the command of a bishop, and Pelagius was compelled to solicit with humility the return of the king. John de Brienne repaired to Damietta, and a council was held on the subject of hostile operations. The legate argued that Egypt was the most powerful of all the Muselman states; that if that country should be conquered, Syria and Palestine would yield without effort. His compeer admitted that their successes at Damietta had laid the foundation for the conquest of Cairo. But he contended, that if all Egypt could be taken, the Christians were unable to retain it. The great object of the Crusaders was

William, 684—688. James de Vitry, lib. 3. Herold, cap. 6. lib. 3.

was the recovery of the holy land. That object ought to be purchased at as little an expense of blood as possible. After every victory the soldiers were eager to return to Europe, and the garrisoning of Egypt would require so many troops, that none would be left to march into Syria. But the king's policy did not accord with the ambition of the prelate; Pelagius charged with cowardice those who refused to march to Cairo, and the threats of excommunication served instead of arguments to change or to overrule the opinions of the friends of the king. The conquest of Egypt was resolved upon, and the army marched by the eastern side of the Fatimite branch of the Nile, till their progress was arrested by the canal of Ashmoum. On the southern side of that canal the Muselman forces were posted. Every sultan of Syria had sent assistance to their brother in the faith, and the allied troops under Camel could cope with the Latins in the field. The sultan, however, would not trust his kingdom to the caprice of fortune. He offered peace to the Christians on nearly the same terms as those which had been proposed previously to the last assault on Damietta. The legate refused with indignation these noble offers: but instead of crossing the canal, and giving the enemy battle, he

CHAP. IV.

The legate and the Croisea take the road for Cairo.

His refusal of favourable terms of peace.

CHAP. IV.

he remained for more than a month inactive on his post, expecting the unconditional surrender of the sultan. During this time the Nile had rapidly increased in height. The Muselmans opened the sluices, inundated their enemy's camp, and Pelagius saw his army gradually wasting, and all communication with Damietta cut off. The Christians could neither advance nor retreat; and, to use the humble simile of a Templar, they were inclosed like fish in a net. When the overflowings of the Nile had swept away all the tents and baggage, Pelagius sent an embassy to the Muselman camp, imploring a safe return to Acre, and offering to surrender Damietta and Tannis to the Muselmans. The sultan of Damascus, and many other members of the Saracenic council, thought that this occasion should be taken for destroying the Christian troops, in revenge of the repeated cruelties and treacheries of European nations. But the sultan of Cairo contended, that the Moslem world was in such a distracted state, in consequence of the invasion of the Tartars, that every thing should be done to prevent the west from thinking of new crusades. Damietta, too, was still occupied by some thousands of Christians, who could sustain a siege as long as that which the Muselmans had endured. It behoved the latter,

Consequences of his violence.

ter, therefore, to profit by the turn of fortune; for as the Muselmans had been under arms for three years, the continuance of their patience and discipline could not be depended upon. Camel's counsels of moderation were adopted, and hostages were interchanged for the performance of the treaty. But the inhabitants of Damietta, when the news of the peace reached them, refused to deliver up the city: nor was it till they learnt that further delay would cause also the surrender of Acre itself, that they submitted to their fate. The distress of the Christian army was mitigated by the humanity of Camel. The king of Jerusalem was one of the hostages, and in an interview with the sultan, he wept for the miserable state of his army. "Why do you weep," enquired the sultan? "I have reason to weep," replied the king; "for the people whom God has given into my "charge, are perishing in the midst of the "waters, or dying of hunger." The sultan shed tears of pity, and opened the Egyptian granaries for their relief. When, after eight months possession by the Latins, Damietta was delivered into the power of the Muselmans, the hostages were exchanged, and the Christian army retreated to the sea coast, through the road by which they had advanced in full confidence of victory. The barons of Syria, and the military

CHAP. IV.

Damietta surrendered to the Muselmans.

CHAP. IV. 1221. military orders, retired to Acre; and the volunteers returned to Europe.*

The emperor Frederic II.

The high spirit of the people of the west was undismayed. A strong feeling of contempt for the infidels made them attribute their ill success to any cause rather than Turkish valour and conduct. The pride of the legate received its full share of censure. But the Pope cast all the odium on the emperor Frederic, a man who had thrice sworn to redeem the holy land, and had compromised with his conscience by merely sending soldiers and provisions. Frederic despised the thunders of the Vatican; but although he was not awed by force, he could not resist Papal artifice. Honorius soothed his irritated mind, and received him again as a faithful son of the church. Herman de Saltza, master of the Teutonic order, returned to Europe, and gave the emperor the hope of being the redeemer of Palestine. Violante, the daughter of the king of Jerusalem, could easily be obtained in marriage, and her father would cede

His marriage with the heiress of Jerusalem.

* Abulfeda, iv. 303, 308. Cont. of the Archbishop of Tyre, 688, 694. Herold, lib. iii. c. vii. ix. M. Paris, 260, 265. In M. Paris there are some letters from Templars in the east, to their friends in the west, full of curious details. Bernardus, 838, 844.

cede his rights, which he was wearied of endea- CHAP. IV.
vouring to convert into an actual and firm dominion. The emperor and the Pope approved of this project, John de Brienne, and the patriarch of Jerusalem, were summoned to Europe, and in a council held at Ferentino, in the Campagna di Roma, the marriage was concluded upon. Frederic accepted from the king of 1222.
Jerusalem a renunciation of all his claims to the holy land, as the dowry of Violante; and he pledged his honour to the Pope, the cardinals, and the masters of the Hospitallers and Teutonic knights, that he would within two years travel with a powerful army into the east, and re-establish the throne of Godfrey of Bouillon. For the succeeding five years, rebellions in Italy, and the insurrections of the Saracens in Sicily, detained the emperor from his purpose. Violante arrived in Europe, and soon resigned Sept. 1225.
her kingdom and her charms to the ambitious and amatory Frederic. The holy war was preached throughout the west, and Honorius threatened with eternal punishment those who drew their sword for any object except the great concern of Christendom. But Louis VIII. and the French despised this threat. After having waged a war with England, they turned their arms into the south of France, endeavoured with pious zeal to extirpate heresy, and Louis contented

CHAP. IV. tented himself with paying the testamentatary donations which Philip Augustus had made to the patriarch, and the Templars and Hospitallers.* Italy was torn by the contests of petty republics; but in England the preachers of the crusade were so earnest and so eloquent in their exhortations, that sixty thousand men at arms, besides old men and women, assumed the cross.† Palestine and Egypt heard with shame and sorrow of the various causes of delay. The Christian residents in Cairo and Alexandria were treated with extraordinary rigour after the fall of Damietta. They were not even allowed to repair their churches, or to carry the image of the cross in a funeral procession. The Muselmans compelled them to perform the meanest offices, and no considerations of pity could save them from prison, if the amount of the toleration tax had not been strictly paid. The patriarch of Alexandria assured the Pope, that the world did not so ardently expect the coming of Christ, as the holy land looked for the arrival of the emperor. Honorius did not live to witness the event of his exertions, but his successor, Gregory the Ninth, was equally furious in the cause. He pressed the emperor to hasten his voyage,

March 1227.

* Sanutus, lib. iii. cap. x.

† M. Paris, 285.

voyage, and since by reason of some concessions which Honorius had induced the allies of the Papacy in Italy to make, the emperor was free of action, an imperial edict was published, declaring that the army would quit Brundisium in August. A diet of the empire was held at Aix la Chapelle; the archbishops of Mentz, Triers, Cologne, Saltzburg, Magdeburg, and Bremen, and their suffragans; and the dukes of Austria, Bavaria, Carinthia, Brabant, and Lorraine, were the most distinguished of the new votaries of fanaticism and romance.

Aug. 1227.

At the time appointed for the sailing of the expedition, Brundisium and its vicinity were crowded with soldiers. But the heats of summer destroyed the health of the people of the north; thousands died, and of those who endeavoured to return to their homes, the greatest part perished through poverty or disease. Although the emperor did not escape the common illness, yet he embarked at Brundisium. But after sailing for three days, additional infirmity compelled him to return. Gregory inherited the papal virtues of violence and ambition. On Michaelmas day he mounted the pulpit of the church of Anagni, and after enlarging on the important results of St. Michael's victory over the Dragon, and declaring that that event was

His disputes with the Pope.

CHAP. IV. only a type of the Christian and Saracenian states, he pronounced a sentence of excommunication against the emperor, for declining to combat the enemy of God. The bull was circulated throughout Europe,* and the Pope was strong in his expressions of self-commendation for his tenderness to the emperor, in drawing against him the medicinal sword of St. Peter. Frederic wrote letters to the kings and princes of Europe, highly expressive of his indignation at such unworthy treatment. He bitterly censured the rapacity and avarice of the Romish church, and contrasted the general cruelty of its conduct with the spirit of meekness upon which the church of Christ was founded.†

The thunders of the Vatican rolled again and again over the head of the emperor, but the author

* A curé at Paris, instead of reading the bull from the pulpit in the usual form, said to his parishioners, "You "know, my brethren, that I am ordered to fulminate an excommunication against Frederic. I know not the motive. "All that I know, is, that there has been a quarrel between "that prince and the Pope. God alone knows who is right. "I excommunicate him who has injured the other: and I "absolve the sufferer." The emperor sent a present to the preacher, but the Pope and the king blamed this sally: le mauvais plaisant was obliged to expiate his fault by a canonical penance.

† M. Paris, 291, 293.

author of them suffered more than the object. The Roman barons were indignant at the unworthy treatment which the successor of Charlemagne, the protector of the church, had received; and they allowed his vindication to be publicly read in the capitol. The emperor sent troops into the papal territories, who ravaged the march of Ancona, and the patrimony of St. Peter. Such of the Hospitallers and Templars (the firm friends of the Pope) as had estates in the imperial dominions in Italy, were plundered and dispossessed.* The emperor heavily taxed his subjects, both churchmen and laity, for the expenses of the holy war. The Easter of the year 1228 was celebrated by him and his barons at Barletta, in Apulia, with great pomp; and in an assemblage which was afterwards held there, he provided for the necessities of his kingdom during his absence in Palestine. In the same season of Easter, the Pope endeavoured to renew the censure of the church against Frederic: but the barons incited the people to mutiny, and even compelled the successor of St. Peter to take up a temporary abode in Perugia. In defiance of Gregory's

 warnings

* The soldiers employed on these occasions were Saracens, subjects of the emperor in Sicily. Like their master, they derided papal bulls.

CHAP. IV. warnings against his entering on the crusade, till he should be relieved from the censures of the church, Frederic embarked at Brundisium in August, and arrived shortly afterwards at Acre.* His presence was heard of with as much satisfaction by the sultan of Egypt as by the Christians. Camel dreaded the ambition of his brother Coradinus, and he considered that the friendship of the European potentate would afford him additional security. But the negotiation was conducted with secrecy, and the Italians, not suspecting the existence of so singular a friendship, wondered that Frederic should sail to Palestine with only twenty gallies. The joy of the Christians at the arrival of the emperor, was soon checked by letters which the patriarch received from the Pope, prohibiting the faithful from obeying a rebellious son of the church. The Teutonic knights feared no clerical censures; and at their head, and of some other soldiers, the emperor quitted Acre, went to Jaffa, and repaired the fortifications of that important city. He then made further advances towards Jerusalem. Though the Templars and Hospitallers refused to join the army whilst an excommunicated emperor commanded it; yet a lurking

He sails to Acre. 1228.

His friendship with the Moslems.

* Before Frederic's departure, his wife Violante died in giving birth to a son, named Conrad.

a lurking desire of military glory urged them to follow him at a distance. His necessities, and the inclinations of the knights, gave rise to a conference; and, as usual, principle gave way to will, and it was agreed that the obligation of the cavaliers to support the cause of Christianity might be reconciled with their duty to the Pope, if the orders of the council of war were issued in the name of God and Christendom. The necessity of being prepared for every event, rendered this humiliating circumstance necessary to the emperor. Ever since he had been in Palestine, there had been negotiations carrying on between him and Camel. But before they were concluded, the sultan of Damascus died, and Camel, finding himself rid of a powerful enemy, became reserved in his communications with Frederic. CHAP. IV.

While matters were in this state, news was brought to the emperor of an effectual method which the Pope had taken of preventing him from continuing the war in Palestine with the enemies of Christ. The Pope's troops, of whom John de Brienne (the father-in-law of Frederic!) was one of the chief commanders, burnt the imperial towns in Italy, imprisoned, tortured, and robbed the people. The duke of Spalatro, the emperor's lieutenant, had been unable suc-

CHAP. IV.

cessfully to resist, though the imperial army had been but little impaired by Frederic's foreign expedition. These circumstances made the emperor anxious to return to Europe; and when fortune withdrew her smiles from Camel, a treaty was immediately signed. For ten years the Christians and Muselmans were to live upon terms of brotherhood. Jerusalem, Jaffa, Bethlehem, Nazareth, and their appendages, were restored to the Christians. The holy sepulchre likewise was given to them; and the people of both religions might offer up their prayers in the place of devotion, which the former class called the temple of Solomon, and the latter named the mosque of Omar. The address of Frederic more effectually promoted the object of the holy wars than the heroic phrenzy of Richard: many of the disasters consequent on the battle of Tiberias were wiped away, and the serious and habitual hopes of Europe, for a permanent settlement in Asia, seemed to be realised. But the barons of the holy land, breathing interminable war, and secretly envying superior genius, avowed indignation that a Christian sovereign should accept the friendship of the infidels. The patriarch and clergy hated an excommunicated prince; a man too who had given license to the Saracens to adore their God in a Christian temple. With some appearance of

Advantageous results of the Crusade.

of reason, however, they contended that the treaty was not binding on the Muselmans while the approbation of the sultan of Damascus was withheld. But, despising the blood-thirstiness of the barons, and the cruel bigotry of the priests, Frederic asserted his royal prerogatives; and, as he had acquired some of the old possessions of the Bouillon family, he avowed his intention of being crowned in the holy city agreeably to constitutional forms. Some persons, discontented with the conditions of the treaty, wished to betray him into the hands of the sultan of Egypt. The guilt of this treachery lies between the Hospitallers and the Templars. Camel read the letter which conveyed to him the news, exclaimed to his associates, "See the "fidelity of these Christian dogs;" and dispatched a friend to Frederic with the paper which he had received.* The emperor repaired to Jerusalem; but no hosannahs welcomed his approach. By the command of the patriarch no religious ceremonies were performed in the churches during his stay. Even the German prelates preferred their spiritual to their temporal allegiance; and the emperor, accompanied only by his courtiers and the Teutonic knights, went to the church of the sepulchre. He

CHAP. IV.

* M. Paris, 102.

CHAP. IV. He boldly took the crown from the altar, and placed it on his own head, and Herman de Saltza pronounced a laudatory oration. Orders were then given for the restoration of the city's walls,* and the emperor returned to Acre. In that city too there was every demonstration of sorrow at his appearance. Mass was performed in secret; the churches were deprived of their ornaments; the bells were not rung, and the dead were interred without any religious ceremony. But by some well-measured acts of severity, a semblance of respect was at length shewn to the emperor; and he then returned to Europe, leaving the priests and people to thank
1229. Heaven for his departure.†

* This is affirmed by the imperial historians. The papal annalists state the reverse; and that the offers of the Templars and Hospitalians to contribute to the expense were despised. The treaty, as reported by Abulfeda, contains a provision, that the walls should not be rebuilt. In a letter which, after his return to Europe, Frederic wrote to all his brother kings, in reply to the complaints of the Pope, he mentions the liberty of the Christians to rebuild the walls. M. Paris, 301.

† Few parts of the Crusades are more difficult to understand, and to reduce into a clear and intelligible form, than the expedition of Frederic. He was vilified by the Templars and Hospitallers, and other friends of the Pope; and their narratives of events are more numerous than those of the imperial party. He gained more for the Christians than any prince had acquired since the first establishment of the kingdom;

kingdom; and if the Pope had not hated him worse than his holiness hated the Saracens, and thereby caused his return to Europe, there is every probability that, after the death of the sultan of Damascus, the emperor would have brought matters to an issue completely triumphant. Gregory IX. and his clergy had the effrontery to tell the world that Frederic had left the sepulchre of Christ in the hands of the infidels. But the fact was, that it was given to the Christians. The temple of Solomon indeed, or rather the mosque of Omar, was left in the hands of the Muselmans; a right of visiting it, however, being allowed to the Christians. For Frederic's expedition I have followed the Chronicle of Richard de S. Germano, in the seventh volume of Muratori, Rer. Scrip. Ital. Corio, Istoria di Milano, p. 215, &c. the second, fifth, sixth, and seventh chapters of the sixteenth book of Giannone Istoria di Napoli, and Abulfeda, vol. iv. p. 335—353. My obligations to Matthew Paris and other authors have been noticed. CHAP. IV.

CHAP. V.

THE SEVENTH AND EIGHTH CRUSADES.

Royal controversies in Palestine.....Council of Spoletto.....March of Hospitalians from London..... French lords take the cross.....State of Palestine .....Unsuccessful result of the French Crusade..... Crusade of the earl of Cornwall.....The English redeem the Sepulchre.....The Korasmians gain it from the Latins, and devastate Palestine.....Council of Lyons.....Louis IX. takes the cross..... English Crusaders.....Jealousy and treachery of the military orders.....The French sail to Cyprus .....They arrive off Damietta.....They land and capture Damietta.....Licentiousness of the French Arrival of the English Crusaders.....The army takes the road to Cairo.....Inability to cross the Ashmoum Canal.....They are shewn a ford..... Impetuosity of the count d'Artois.....His dispute with the Templars and William Longsword..... Dreadful events in Massoura.....Distresses of the French.....The king is made prisoner.....Is ransomed.....The French go to Acre.....New hopes by reason of the Moslem dissensions.....Those dissensions quelled.....Failure of the Crusade..... Louis returns to France.

Royal controversies in Palestine.

THE title of sovereign over Jerusalem was so venerable in the eyes of the religious part of the world, that princes were not deterred from aspiring

piring to it by the circumstance, that the whole of Christian Palestine consisted only of a few towns. After the departure of Frederic, the princess Alice,* at that time the widow of Hugh de Lusignan, went from Cyprus to Syria, and claimed the crown of her ancestors. But the military orders were firm in their loyalty to the imperial house of Suabia, and resisted the partizans of the pretender till the emperor sent an army into the east. His generals, however, repaid the fidelity of the cavaliers by taxing and oppressing them: but nature vindicated her rights; the superiority of the Germans was disowned; they were driven from Acre, and sought refuge in Tyre. The emperor severely reprehended the tyranny of his officers; and knowing that his influence materially rested upon the confidence which existed between himself and the military orders, he restored to the latter the estates in Sicily of which he had unjustly deprived them. At his solicitation the Pope, to whom Frederic was now reconciled, dispatched the archbishop of Ravenna to the holy land as the messenger of peace, and the imperial authority was restored.† But the Christians in Asia were never free from the mildew of civil discord, or the

* See p. 155, ante.

† Sanutus, lib. iii. pars 11. cap. 13.

CHAP. V. the blast of foreign war; and they were compelled to warn their brethren in the west, that a new and general crusade must soon be undertaken. The talents of Saladin and his brother were equal to the management of their vast empires; but their successors preserved only the name of authority in their distant provinces; and many powerful emirs would not consider themselves included in Frederic's treaty of peace. The Christians were often invaded and robbed by the Saracens; and on one occasion, ten thousand pilgrims, in their procession from Acre to the holy city, fell victims to Turkish violence.*

Council of Spoletto. A. D. 1234. The council of Spoletto decreed that fresh levies should be sent into Asia on the expiration of the truce with Camel.† The Franciscans and Dominicans were the bearers of the resolutions to the princes and people of Christendom. But it was soon apparent that the recovery of the holy land was not the paramount

* Sanutus, lib. 3. pars 11. cap. 13.

† Labbé, vol. xi. p. 481. The Crusade (the seventh) consequent on the council of Spoletto, had two parts:—The expedition of the count of Champagne, and that of Richard, earl of Cornwall. My authorities are Abulfeda, Sanutus, Matthew Paris, and the public letter of Richard, earl of Cornwall.

mount consideration in the mind of Gregory IX. for the preaching of the crusade once more became the means of filling the papal coffers. By the different engines of persuasion and compulsion, the missionaries gained numberless converts, and then allowed the unwilling, and compelled the wealthy Croises to give the church great largesses in exchange for the vow. The once humble friars grew so rich by these exactions, that their pride and magnificence were detestable in the eyes of the people. These disgraceful scenes were acted in England for two years: but the indignation of society at the avarice of the Pope was so strong, that the preaching ceased. Some of the English nobility were inflamed by the love of warlike praise, and took the cross with no intention of submitting to a pecuniary commutation. The earl of Chester, and also Richard, earl of Cornwall, brother to king Henry III. prepared to measure lances with the Saracens.* The desire of crusading was influenced by events in Palestine. A truce between the sultan of Aleppo and the Templars expired with the life of the Muselman prince; and when his successor renewed the war with them, they sustained so severe a defeat, that every commandatory in Europe sent them

CHAP. V.

1234—1236.

* M. Paris, 337, 339, 364, 365.

CHAP. V.

March of Hospitallians from London. A. D. 1237.

them succours; and even the Hospitalians resolved to avenge the death of their rivals. Three hundred knights and a considerable body of stipendiaries went from London. Preceded by their prior, they left their residence in Clerkenwell in military procession. On their way to the city's bridge they received and repaid the salutations of the crowds of spectators; and with their caps in their hands, they commended themselves and their cause to the prayers of the people.*

1236—1239. French lords take the cross.

The spirit of crusading burnt in France, particularly in the middle and southern provinces. Thibaud,† at once count of Champagne, and, in right of his third wife, king of Navarre, Hugh, duke of Burgundy, Henry, count of Bar, Peter, count of Brittany, and many other barons, assembled

* M. Paris, 374. The Hospitallers could well afford this succour to their companions in arms. Writing the history of the year 1244, M. Paris says that the Hospitallers had nineteen thousand manors in Christendom, and the Templars nine thousand. Now although it may be difficult to estimate the value of these estates, yet the notice of M. Paris is the first attempt at specification in the old writers, and deserves regard, as it shews the comparative importance of these two orders.

† The poetry of this man is mentioned in note O, Appendix.

sembled at Lyons, in order to concert the means of giving effect to their common desire. But a legate of the Pope interrupted their councils with announcing the commands of his master for the dissolving of the assembly, and the return of the members to their homes. The barons remonstrated against this versatility of opinion in an infallible guide. In obedience to papal commands, they had resolved to take a perilous journey: they had collected stores of provisions and arms; and the purchase of these necessaries had been made by the sale or mortgage of their estates. The nuntio was contumeliously dismissed; and the impetuous multitude would have exposed their feelings in open violence, if they had not been restrained by the grave and temperate clergy. The union of purpose for a crusade seemed complete, when ambassadors from the emperor implored the French barons to wait till Frederic could strengthen and lead their bands. Enthusiasm was chilled; and irresolution had some plea for hopelessness in this attempt at procrastination. But most of the nobility pressed forwards to Marseilles, and hoisted sail for the holy land. Indignant at this contempt of his wishes, the emperor prohibited the governors of Apulia and other countries from affording aid to the Crusaders. This measure prevented many parties of cavaliers from

pursuing

CHAP. V. pursuing the voyage; but it did not impede those fanatical and romantic warriors, the king of Navarre, the duke of Burgundy, and the counts of Bar and Brittany, from continuing their course to Acre.* The events which had lately occurred in Palestine made the task of these barons as arduous as any in the fabled enterprises of knighthood. The kingdom itself was to be regained, and the holy sepulchre once more to be redeemed. News of the warlike preparations of Europe had been communicated to the sultan of Egypt; and the first moment when the faith of treaties opposed not a hostile course, he drove the Latins out of Jerusalem, and overthrew the tower of David, which, until that time, had always been regarded as sacred by all classes of religionists. After this capture Camel died: various princes of Syria and Egypt asserted their pretensions to the vacant throne; but the military spirit was too active among the Muselmans, to allow the Christians rationally to hope that they should eventually profit by these dissensions. The count of Champagne advanced from Acre towards Ascalon with the intention of repairing its fortifications. The war began by a successful irruption of the count of Brittany

State of Palestine.

A. D. 1238.

* M. Paris, 461, 462, 465. Sanutus, lib. iii. pars 11, cap. 15.

tany into the Damascene territories. But in the vicinity of Gaza three hundred Frenchmen, who wished to imitate the glory of the cavaliers of Brittany, were defeated by a smaller number of Turks. The count of Montfort was slain, the count of Bar was taken prisoner; and this defeat struck such terror into the mind of the king of Navarre, that he returned to Acre. As hostilities had failed, the French endeavoured to obtain their objects by alliances with the Saracenian princes: but as they were without a head or centre of union, they negotiated like individuals, and formed alliances incompatible with that unity of design which it was necessary for them to maintain. The Templars obtained a promise of the restitution of the holy land, rom the emir of Karac, a dependant on the sultan of Damascus, by engaging on their parts to defend him from his Egyptian rival. The Hospitallers, the king of Navarre, the count of Brittanny, and others, entered into a treaty of friendship with the sultan of Egypt.*

CHAP. V.

Unsuccessful result of the French Crusade.

Whilst the Christians of Asia were busied in the intrigue of negotiation, the English barons assembled at Northampton, and in order to pre-

Nov. 1239. Crusade of the earl of Cornwall.

* Sanutus, lib. 3. pars 11. c 15. M. Paris, 474. Abulfeda, IV. 449.

CHAP. V. vent their spiritual lord from turning their arms to the aid of his wars in Italy and Germany, they repaired to the church of All Saints, and bound themselves by oath to conduct their levies straight to Palestine. The Pope renewed his endeavours to persuade the English to commute their piety for gold, but his ministers, the Franciscans and Dominicans, were only treated with contempt: and in the spring of the year 1240, Richard earl of Cornwall,* William Longespée or Longsword,† Theodore, the prior of the Hospitallers, and many others of the nobility, embarked at Dover for France. They were

* The Christian name of the earl of Cornwall alarmed the Saracens. The very word, Richard, was dreaded in Syria; so great was the terror which Cœur de Lion had spread. M. Westminster, p. 303, 304. Syrian mothers used to frighten their children into goodness by telling them that king Richard was coming. The lion-hearted warrior was also dreaded by horses; for if a courser started, the rider would exclaim, "dost thou think that king Richard is in "that bush?"

† This William Longespee was the son of the earl of Salisbury, who went to the holy land in 1219. The companion of the earl of Cornwall was never earl of Salisbury. He claimed the earldom, but right was not done him. Dugdale, Baronage, I. 777, and Brookes' Catalogue of Kings, &c. p. 296. fol. 1622. Both William Longespee and Richard earl of Cornwall were professed heresy extinguishers. In 1225 they assisted Louis in his wars against the Albigenses.

were accompanied from London to the sea-coast by king Henry and his court, and their departure was blessed with the prayers of the bishops. The French monarch received the army with distinction and favour; its march through France resembled a triumph by reason of the congratulations of the people, and the embarkation was completed at Marseilles in defiance of the prohibition of the Pope. The arrival of Richard and the other barons at Acre, took place shortly after the signature of the discordant treaties between the Templars and the emir of Karac, and the Hospitallers with the sultan of Egypt. The English were astonished to find that the king of Navarre and the count of Brittany had fled from the plains of Syria, when they received intelligence of the departure of reinforcements from Europe. The emir of Karac too could not fulfil his treaty, or even restore to the Templars the prisoners which had been made in the battle of Gaza. Richard marched to Jaffa, but as the sultan of Egypt (then at war with the sultan of Damascus) sent to offer him terms of peace, he prudently seized the benefits of negotiation. With the consent of the duke of Burgundy, the master of the Hospitallers, and other lords of high degree, he accepted a renunciation of Jerusalem, Beritus, Nazareth, Bethlehem,

CHAP. V.

The English redeem the sepulchre.

CHAP. V. Jehem, mount Thabor, and most of the holy land. An exchange of prisoners was to cement the union. The earl of Cornwall retrograded to Acre, and unlike the king of Navarre, who left Palestine careless whether the Saracens observed or despised their treaty, Richard took such active measures that the sultan of Egypt immediately ratified the conditions. The great object of the Crusaders seemed now to be accomplished. Palestine belonged to the Chris-
June 1241. tians. Richard returned to Europe, and was received in every town as the deliverer of the holy sepulchre. From neglect or inability he had not induced the Templars to consent to *his* completion of the hopes of the west: and in spleen and revenge the cavaliers renewed those unfraternal altercations with other knights which had hastened the ruin of the kingdom in the time of Saladin.*

The

* M. Paris, 463, 470, 479. The public letter of Richard contains a narrative of the events of the crusade, p. 503—505, 511, 534. Sanutus, lib. 3. pars 11. cap. 16. William of Salisbury returned about a year after Richard, M. Paris, 516. It seems from the Arabic accounts that the sultan of Damascus, and not the sultan of Egypt, conceded Palestine to the Franks. Macrizi in Joinville, p. 234. It is however clear that the English were formidable as a third party between the two sultans, and that they made much of their political situation.

CHAP. V.

The Hospitallers opened their treasury for the re-edification of the walls of Jerusalem. The patriarch and clergy entered the sacred city, and reconsecrated the churches.* For two years Christianity was the only religion administered in Jerusalem, and the faithful began to exult in the apparent permanent downfal of infidelity, when a new enemy arose more dreadful than even the Muselmans. The great Tartarian princes, Zingis Khan and his successors, had obliterated the vast empire of Korasm; and the expelled and defeated Tartars fled to the south. The storm rolled on towards Egypt, the Korasmians demanded a settlement; the sultan was the only Moslem prince who entered into treaties with those barbarians; and he advised them to fix themselves in Palestine.† He sent one of

The Korasmians gain it, and devastate Palestine.

 his

* M. Paris, 543. Macrizi in Joinville, 234.

† This is the occasion of the Korasmian war, as appears from a public letter of the clergy of the east to the clergy of the west, preserved in M. Paris, p. 566. The master of the Hospitallers (p. 548) says that the Korasmians were requested and commanded by the sultan to invade Palestine. The emperor Frederic, p. 546, charges the Templars with having violated the treaty which the earl of Cornwall had made with the sultan of Egypt, and traces to that cause the hostility of the Korasmians. Though every thing which fell from the emperor, respecting the Templars, must be received with suspicion on account of his indignation against them for

CHAP. V. his principal emirs, and a large body of troops as their guides and coadjutors, and at the head of twenty thousand horse, Barbacan, the Korasmian general, entered the holy land. The Christians in Jerusalem heard with dismay that the Tartarian tempest had reached their territories. On the principle that it was wise to oppose one barbarian to another, the knights summoned the sultans of Ems and Damascus to overthrow the common enemy of mankind. But the requisition was not complied with, and it was evident from the ruined state of the walls that Jerusalem was no longer tenable. The cavaliers, and many of the inhabitants, abandoned the sacred city. The Korasmians entered it, spared neither lives nor property, and violated both Christian and Muselman sanctuaries. In the wantonness of cruelty they disinterred the departed great, and made a cremation of venerable remains. The insulting fanatics of savageness murdered priests round the altars, exclaiming,

for their conduct to the German or Teutonic knights, yet there can be little doubt that the red cross knights did commit such hostilities, for they were friends only with the sultan of Damascus and the emir of Karac. The emperor might be right in his facts, but he was certainly wrong in his conclusions, for no measures of the military orders could have prevented the Korasmians from ravaging and destroying Syria and Palestine.

exclaiming, while they stabbed the holy men, CHAP. V.
let us pour their blood on the place where they poured out wine in commemoration of their crucified God. As crafty as ferocious they planted a banner of the cross upon the walls, and, deceived by this joyful appearance several thousands of the fugitives returned to the city, but only to partake of the miserable doom of their friends.* The repeated solicitations of the Templars at length brought four thousand soldiers from their Syrian allies. The united Christian and Muselman forces were so far inferior to the Tartars, that policy required a course of measures perfectly defensive. But the fury of the patriarch precipitated the army into the gulph of destruction. The awful conflict raged for two days. The soldiers of Damascus and Ems were soon slain, or scattered. The loss of every part of the army was great, almost beyond example. Seldom had the Latins rued in one battle the death of the two grand masters of St. John and the Temple. Only sixteen Hospitallers, thirty-three Templars, and three Teutonic cavaliers remained alive and free. These soldiers

* On this subject see the several letters in Matthew Paris, quoted in the last note; and Macrizi, p. 235. The narratives differ in some points respecting the mode of destruction; but the result is clear.

CHAP. V. fled to Acre, and that city became the refuge of the Christians. After having rased the fortifications of Ascalon, and the castle of Tiberias, the Korasmians and Egyptians encamped on the plains of Acre, devastated the country, and slew or led into captivity all straggling Franks. Jaffa was next attacked, and Sir Walter de Brienne, lord of that city, who had been taken
1244. in the late battle, was exposed on a gallows to the view of the inhabitants, and they were assured of his continuance in that degrading situation until the castle should be surrendered. But the count in generous self-oblivion urged his soldiers to the virtue of firmness, and added that no confidence could be placed in the promises of the furious and inexorable sultan. The gallant Walter was led as a captive to Cairo, and the Egyptians, incapable of admiring greatness, basely murdered their heroic and fallen foe. An united force of Korasmians and Mamlukes conquered Damascus, and Europe heard with dismay that the Muselman power was again consolidating. But the members soon were separated, for the sultan of Egypt, faithless as cruel, denied his allies a permanent settlement on the shores of the Nile. The soldiers of fortune flew to the banner of the Damascene prince, and assisted him in his efforts to recover his capital.

capital. But the cause of the Mamelukes was felt as the common interest of the Moslem world, and all Syria, as well as all Egypt, was in arms in order to exterminate the northern barbarians. In a general engagement the Korasmians were defeated and scattered. Barbacan was slain, and southern Asia recovered from its panic and distress.* CHAP. V. 1247.

The superstition of a French king, and the successes of the savage Korasmians, gave birth to the eighth Crusade. Pope Innocent IV. convoked a general council at Lyons; the bishop of Beritus described the effects of the Tartarian storm, and left his ecclesiastical brethren to conclude, whether one effort should not be made for a restoration of things to the state in which Richard earl of Cornwall had left them. It was accordingly resolved that a Crusade should be preached throughout Christendom, and that for four years peace and seriousness should reign over Europe. Such of the faithful as did not expose their persons in the holy cause were to give the subsidiary aid of treasure; and the contribution to be made by the cardinals was fixed at Council at Lyons, 1245.

* Joinville, 209—211. Sanutus, lib. 3. pars 12. cap. 1. De Guignes, livre 14. M. Paris, 599, and the letters already cited.

CHAP. V. at a tenth, and that of the other ecclesiastics at a twentieth part of their yearly revenues.*

The Pope wrote to Henry III. king of England, urging him to press on his subjects the necessity of punishing the Korasmians.† But the spirit of crusading raged more strongly in France than in any other country of the west; and it revived in all its fierceness of piety and chivalry in Louis IX. Agreeably to the temper of the times, he had vowed, whilst afflicted by a severe illness, that in case of recovery he would travel to the holy land.‡ In the delirium of his fever,

Louis IX. takes the cross.

* The usual privileges were granted to the Crusaders. M. Paris, p. 580—595, gives a full account of the proceedings of this council at Lyons. The subject is interesting to the English reader, on account of the spirited remonstrances of the English barons against the rapacity of the Romish church. The tax for the support of the Crusade was warmly opposed at the council, because the people remembered the way in which the Pope had applied their former contributions, M. Paris, 595.

† Rymer, i. 254, new edit.

‡ The crusade of St. Louis (the eighth crusade) has for its authorities M. Paris, the history of St. Louis, by Joinville, seneschal of Champagne; and Macrisi, the Oriental Chronicle, and other Arabic historians, collected and translated by the Parisian editors of Joinville, 1761. Joinville, as an historian, is precisely of the same character as Villehardouin: and fortunately Charles Du Fresne Du Cange enriched

fever, he had beheld an engagement between the Christians and the Saracens; the infidels were victorious, and the brave king of a valiant nation fancied himself called upon to avenge the defeat.* The victories of the Korasmians were a realization of part of his dream, and his preparations had anticipated the decrees of the Lyonese council. The cross was likewise taken by the three royal brothers, the counts of Artois, Poitiers, and Anjou; by the duke of Burgundy, the countess of Flanders, and her two sons, the count of St. Paul, and many other knights.† By serious arguments and bland persuasions, the royal advisers endeavoured to turn their master from the perilous enterprise. But his warlike

enriched both works with numerous and valuable notes. I shall generally quote Mr. Johnes' translation.

* This vow was made about the year 1244. Nangis and Chronicle of St. Denys, cited in Du Cange's notes. From the moment of his resolving to go to the holy land, St. Louis quitted all pomp of dress: he exchanged his purple for black, a royal for a religious habit. During the crusade he abstained from wearing scarlet, vair, or ermine. The example of the monarch gave efficacy to the laws regarding simplicity of dress, and the lord of Joinville assures us, that, during the whole time he was attending the king on his crusade, he never once saw an embroidered coat of arms. The French barons, however, when resident in Damietta, were less rigid in morality than in dress.

† M. Paris, 600, and Joinville.

CHAP. V. warlike heroism and religious devotion were stimulated, rather than checked, at the thoughts of danger, and he burnt with the noble desire of wiping from his escutcheon the stains of the timidity of Louis VII. and Philip Augustus. If it were the policy of the Syrian Muselmans to oppose the torrent of success of the sultan of Egypt and the Korasmians, the French, who saw almost all the holy land laid desolate, and who were on the point of being driven from it, were not less animated to defend a country, the conquest and possession of which had cost them so much blood. The interests of religion, the glory of their arms, the necessity of defending their colony in the east, and the rights of property and old possession naturally led them to new efforts.*

English Crusaders.

Sentiments of respect for the king of France were not felt in his country alone; the people of England revered his name, and avowedly in imitation of his example, the bishop of Salisbury,

* De Guignes, iv. 112. The songs of the minstrels reflected the opinion of the age; and we have evidence from a chanson of Rutebeuf, a French rhymer of the thirteenth century, that the world were not only weary of crusading, but saw the folly of it. The subject is discussed by a Crusader and a Non-crusader. See Appendix, Note (P).

bury, William Longespee,* Walter de Lucy, CHAP. V.
and many other English nobles and gentlemen, were crossed. William Longespee was, or feigned himself, poor, and went to Rome to solicit the aid of the Pope. "Your holiness "sees that I am signed with the cross; my "name is great and of note, William Longe-"spee, but my fortune is not equal to the dig-"nity of my family. The king of England, "my relation, and liege lord, has bereft me of "the title and estate of earl of Salisbury; but "he has done this judicially, and not in his dis-"pleasure, or by the impulse of his will; there-"fore I cast no blame on him. But I am com-"pelled to fly to your compassionate heart for "aid in this distress. We see that the noble "Richard, earl of Cornwall, although not sign-"ed with the cross, yet, through the favour of "your holiness, has received large sums of "money from those who are signed, and, there-"fore, I who am signed and in want, do entreat "the like kindness." As the Englishman did not require the coffers of the Vatican, the Pope received him with favour, admired his eloquence and chivalric accomplishments, and gave him letters

* The same William Longespee who had accompanied Richard, earl of Cornwall, to the holy land, in the year 1240.

CHAP. V. letters of license to plunder his crusading countrymen. Longespee returned to England, and extorted more than a thousand marks from the religious, while the less scrupulous or more powerful earl of Cornwall was insatiable in his avarice, and gained from one archdeacon alone, six hundred pounds.*

Political circumstances† detained St. Louis in France for three years; but the money and troops which he sent to the holy land invigorated the hopes of the Latin Christians. The ranks of the military orders were recruited by hired troops and regular knights from the different stations in Europe. In one endeavour to strengthen themselves, they failed. In former wars, the cavaliers who died on the field, and those who were made prisoners, were considered equally lost to the cause, for the order of which they were members never thought of ransoming their brethren. But at this exigent moment rules were made to bend to circumstances, and a deputation of the Hospitallers and Templars waited on the sultan of Egypt. But he rejected their

* M. Paris, 638, 639.

† M. Paris, 578, 645. The Pope and the king made the clergy of France, for three years, contribute a tenth of their revenues for the service of the crusade. M. Paris, 620.

their offers of gold. He expressed his detestation of a perfidious class of men who would formerly have betrayed their emperor. "Their mutual animosity is stronger than their hatred of their enemies. The Templars and Hospitallers are both traitors and cowards. They violated the treaty which I made with the king of England's brother, whom they called, in contempt, the boy. In the last great battle their standard-bearer was the first man who fled. By the rules of military knights the capuce and girdle are all that should be offered as a ransom, and I will not strengthen their numbers by accepting their money. God has delivered them into my hands, and I will punish them." After this interview, the Egyptian ministers assured the envoys, that the only way of obtaining the release of their friends was the intercession of the emperor. The sultan loved and esteemed him, and the slightest expression of his will would be followed by immediate gratification.*

CHAP. V.

Jealousy and treachery of the military orders.

On

* These interesting circumstances respecting the friendship between the emperor and the sultan of Egypt, are recorded by M. Paris, p. 610. In a letter of the sultan to the Pope, on the subject of a negotiation (a fruitless one) for peace, he mentions his own friendship and that of his father for the emperor. M. Paris, 621. See before, p. 196.

CHAP. V.

The French sail to Cyprus.

On the 12th of June, 1248, Louis, attended by his three brothers, went to the abbey of St. Denys, and received from the Pope's legate the oriflamme,* the alms' purse, and pilgrim's staff. He sailed from France at the end of August, and arrived in September at Cyprus, the appointed rendezvous for his barons and their vassals.† The king remained eight months in Cyprus,

* The oriflamme, or aurea flamma, was the banner of the abbot and monastery of St. Denys. It was carried by the counts of Vexin and Pontoise, who were the leaders of the vassals of that church till the reigns of Philip the First, or of his son, Louis the Fat, who became counts of Vexin. From that time the French kings were protectors of the church of St. Denys, but, as the saint himself was protector of the kingdom, the king carried into the *public* wars the standard of him whose aid they invoked. In the time of Charles VII. the white ensign superseded the use of the oriflamme. The standard of St. Denys, like all other church banners, was slit in different parts from the bottom, ornamented with fringes, and fastened at the top of a pike by a cross bar that kept it extended. The lance was gilded, and the colour of the materials of the standard was red: from these circumstances the name of Oriflamme was given to the standard. Menage, Dict. Etymol. and Du Cange, Dissert. 18.

† Among other noblemen who joined Louis, was the seneschal of Champagne, and about twenty knights. Before Joinville's ship left Marseilles, the priests and clerks on board chaunted hymns, and the mariners set their sails in the name of God. When they were out of sight of land, the seneschal thought that a man must be a great fool, who shoud

Cyprus, employed in organising his troops, in CHAP. V.
works of piety, and particularly in healing the breaches in charity between the military orders. The Venetians and other people assisted the French with provisions; on one occasion the supplies of the emperor Frederic preserved the army, and the grateful king implored the Pope to absolve a man who had been benevolent to the soldiers of the church. The embassadors of a Tartarian prince appeared before Louis, offering their master's aid to root the Saracens and Pagans out of the holy land. The king sent a magnificent present to his ally, in order to bribe him to become a Christian. Two black monks, who understood the Arabic language, were charged with the missionary office, and their eloquence and embroidered representation of

 some

should put himself into maritime dangers, who has wronged any one, or has any mortal sins on his conscience; "for "when he goes to sleep in the evening, he knows not if in "the morning he may not find himself under the sea." For two nights and a day they endeavoured to pass a huge mountain off Barbary. A discreet churchman relieved their distress, by the assurance, that in case of any unpleasant circumstance in his parish, all was set to rights by making a procession three times on a Saturday. This fact was mentioned on a Saturday, and accordingly a procession was made round the masts of the ship: such men as were ill were supported. Faith had its reward, for the mountain was soon lost sight of. Joinville, p. 116, 118.

CHAP. V. some of the mysteries of Christianity were to effect the conversion of the Scythian savage and his court.* In the spring of the year 1249, the soldiers of Louis were mustered, and his ships prepared for sea: fifty thousand men formed his military force, and eighteen hundred was the number of his transports, palandars, and store ships. They set sail for Egypt; a storm separated the fleet; and the royal division, in which were nearly three thousand knights and their men at arms, arrived off Damietta.

Arrive off Damietta.

The shores were lined by the sultan's troops, who astonished the French by the clangour of trumpets and brazen drums. The heralds of the king of France instantly went to the sultan, Nodgemeddin, (a son of Camel,) near Ashmoum, and spared no language of exaggeration in describing the power of their master. The only way to avoid the tempest was to receive priests who would teach the Christian religion to the people of Egypt:† otherwise he would pursue them,

* Joinville, 120.

† It was very seldom that the Christians thought of converting the Muselmans. When the sword failed, then they resorted to arguments. The occasion will excuse me from departing from chronological order, and saying, that in the year 1285, Pope Honorius IV. in his design to convert the Saracens to Christianity, wished to establish schools at Paris for

them every where, and God should decide to whom the country should be given. The sultan replied that he also knew the use of arms, and, like the French, inherited valour. The cause of the Muselmans was that of justice; and the Koran declared, that they who made war unjustly should perish. The armies of the Christians might be more numerous than the Mameluke bands; but the word of God also said, "How often have the most numerous armies "been destroyed by a handful of soldiers."* CHAP. V.

Some of the knights wished to dissuade the king from landing, till the appearance of their brethren in arms: but the remembrance of the late

for the tuition of people in the Arabic and other oriental languages, agreeably to the intentions of his predecessors. In every subsequent project for a Crusade, it was always proposed to instruct the Saracens *sword in hand.* The council of Vienne in 1312 recommended the conversion of the infidels, and the re-establishment of schools, as the way to recover the holy land. It was accordingly ordered that there should be professors of the Hebrew, Chaldaic, and Arabic tongues in Rome, Paris, Oxford, Bologna, and Salamanca; and that the learned should translate into Latin the best Arabic books. It was not till the time of Francis I. that this decree was acted upon. He founded the royal college, and sent even into the east for books. See Du Boulay, Hist. de l'Université de Paris, tom. iii. p. 472.

* Macrisi, 239, &c.

CHAP. V. storm made him dread further maritime dangers.

They land, and capture Damietta.

Accordingly, on the second day after their arrival, Louis commanded the disembarkation: he himself leaped into the water, his shield was suspended from his neck, his helmet was on his head, and his lance on his wrist. His soldiers followed him to the shore; and the Saracens, panic struck at their boldness and determination, made but a slight shew of defence, and fled into the interior of the country. Although Damietta was better prepared for a siege than in those days when it had sustained an attack of eighteen months' duration, yet the garrison sought safety in the fleetness of their horses. They were received at Cairo with the indignation which their cowardice merited; and the sultan (who had repaired thither from Ashmoum) strangled fifty of the chiefs. The people of Damietta loaded themselves with their most valuable effects, set fire to the part of the city in which their merchandise and plunder were collected, and then took flight for Cairo.* Louis fixed his residence in the city; a Christian government was established; and the clergy, agreeably to old custom, purified the mosques. According to ancient usage, one third part of the spoil should have been allotted to

June 1249.

* Joinville, 126, &c. Macrisi, 239, &c.

to the general in chief, and the remaining portions had been usually divided among the pilgrims: but at the suggestion of the patriarch of Jerusalem, Louis ordered that the corn and provisions should form a magazine for the common benefit of the army: and he retained to himself the rest of the moveable booty.* CHAP. V.

Licentiousness of the French.

Neither the religious character of the war, nor the importance of preserving military discipline, had any effect on the conduct of the holy warriors. The barons emulated each other in the splendour of their banquets, and the commonalty abandoned themselves to the lowest vices. So general was the immorality, that the king could not stop the foul and noxious torrent.†

* This residue was not worth more than six thousand livres. Louis drew great obloquy to himself by dividing the plunder in a manner which the good old customs of the Crusades did not warrant. Joinville, 120—128.

† Les barons, chevaliers, et autres, qui deussent avoir bien gardé leur bien, et l'avoir espergné pour s'en secourir en lieu et en temps, se prindrent à faire grans banquets les ungs aux autres en habondance de viandes delicieuses. Et le commun peuple se print à forcer et violer femmes et filles. Dont de ce advint grant mal. Car il failut que le roy en donnant congié à tout plain de ses gens et officiers. Car ainsi que le bon roy me dist, il trouve jusques à ung gect de pierre prés et à l'entour de son paveillon plusieurs bordeaux, que ses gens tenoient. Et d'autres maulx y avoit plus,

CHAP. V. The Saracens effected that change which considerations of virtue could not accomplish: for their gradually accumulating force in the neighbourhood of Damietta made the Christians return to watchfulness and order. The hope of the reward of a piece of gold for an enemy's head, inspirited the Muselmans to many enterprises of difficulty and danger; but Louis prevented at length their incursions into his camp, for he surrounded it with deep ditches, and his cross-bow men galled the approaching parties of Muselman cavalry. The French looked with impatience for the count of Poitiers and the arriere ban of France, the remainder of the force which had sailed from Cyprus, and had been driven to Acre in the tempest.* At the recommendation of the seneschal of Champagne, the three processions of the worthy dean of Mauru
Oct. 1249. were ordered;† and before the third Saturday the count of Poitiers reached Egypt; and fortunately for him, says Joinville, he did not arrive earlier, for, during the space of the two preceding

plus, que en ost qu'il eust jamés veu. Joinville, Hist. du roy Saint Loys, p. 32. edit. Paris, 1668.

* This is Joinville's account: he could scarcely have been mistaken in a matter of this nature: but Vincent de Beauvois and Nangis say that the count of Poitiers left France in the middle of August, and sailed direct to Damietta.

† See note, p. 225, ante.

ceding Saturdays, there had been such continued storms at sea before Damietta, that twelve score vessels, great and small, were wrecked and sunk, and their crews drowned.* The French also were joined by two hundred English knights, led by William Longespee, whose valour rose on every call to war against the Muselmans.† Some of the barons in the council at Damietta thought that it would be wise to attempt the city and port of Alexandria; but the count of Artois and the most enterprising spirits proposed, that they should advance to Grand Cairo itself. The king adopted the opinions of his brother; and at the close of November, the army commenced its march to the capital of Egypt. Until their approach to the vicinity of Massoura, they overcame the open and insidious enmity of the Saracens. Soon after his departure from Damietta, the king accepted the proffered aid of five hundred horsemen of the sultan, and commanded his army to respect their guides. Vainly thinking that this order was inflexible to circumstances, the Saracens

CHAP. V.

Arrival of the English Crusaders.

The army takes the road to Cairo.

* Joinville, 130, &c.

† M. Paris, 664, 678. While Longespee was in the holy land, Henry III. at the instigation of the Pope, had the Crusade preached in England, and wrote to the Irish bishops, desiring them to preach it in their respective dioceses. The result does not appear. Rymer, i. 274.

CHAP. V.

attacked the Templars, who formed the van of the army. But the valiant knights rallied round their grand master, and invoking God to aid them in this perilous conjuncture, they rushed upon and destroyed their treacherous foes. Sacedeen,* the Egyptian emir, and his army were encamped on the opposite side of the Ashmoum canal, which the French in vain endeavoured to cross. Under the cover of two chas-chateils they commenced a causeway over the canal: but the Saracens ruined in a day the work of a month; and even crossed the Nile by one of the passages which were familiar to them, and gave battle to the enemy. The counts of Anjou and Poitiers repulsed, but could not rout them; for their military machines enabled them to remain on the defensive.† The ships on the sea coast were

Inability to cross the Ashmoum canal.

* Nodgemeddin died shortly before the Christians left Damietta. Sacedeen was only the commander of the Egyptian forces, whom the widow of the late sultan and her friends had appointed. Every thing was done in the name of Nodgemeddin, because his son, Toorun Shah was not arrived. Sacedeen's military qualities had gained him the honour of knighthood from the emperor Frederic.

† The torrents of Greek fire alarmed the Christians, and destroyed their cats. A terrified spectator described this fire as in appearance like a large tun; and its tail was of the length of a long spear: the noise which it made resembled thunder; and it seemed a great dragon of fire flying through the air. Joinville speaks of the Greek fire as if it had been hitherto

were stripped of all their spare timbers; and, at an immense cost, two new chas-chateils were erected. But on the very day they were set up, the Saracens burnt them with the Greek fire.* The Christians had now no hope of passing the canal by means of a causeway; but their despair was relieved by a Bedoween, who offered, for the recompence of five hundred besants, to shew them a ford. The impetuous count of Artois offered to effect the passage, and, with the aid of the two military orders, to secure the march of the army. He was entrusted with the important charge; and, at the head of fourteen hundred knights, and William Longespee and his troops, he followed the steps of the guide. They threw themselves into the water; and, after having overcome some slight resistance of the Turks, mounted the opposite bank. The count pursued the foes even as far as their camp. Fortune accompanied his steps, and the infidels fled. Some concealed themselves for a while in Massoura, and many sought remote distances. If the count of Artois had listened to the counsels of the leaders of the military friars and red cross knights, he would not have advanced from the river

CHAP. V

They are shewn a ford.

Impetuosity of the count d'Artois.

hitherto unknown to the Franks. On the contrary, the Turks had used it even in the first Crusade.

* Joinville, 134—138.

CHAP. V. river until the main body of the army arrived. By sad experience they knew that bravery and cowardice were perpetually vacillating in the breasts of the Turks, and that fury generally succeeded panic. The sight of Massoura deserted by many of its inhabitants, could not be viewed with calmness; and ardent heroism regarded prudence as the mask of pusillanimity.

Feb. 1250.

His dispute with the Templars and William Longsword.

To the representations of the grand master of the Templars, that the flight of the Turks proceeded only from an accidental alarm, and not a permanent impression of terror, the count replied, that such an opinion could only spring from treachery. "It is not without reason," he continued, "that we have been repeatedly told "that the Templars and Hospitallers, to shew "their own importance, and to exhaust the "coffers of Europe, prevent a conclusion from "being put to the war. For fear of being sub-"ject to the western kings, they have either "poisoned many lords and princes, or delivered "them into the hands of the enemy. Who is "there that does not know with what difficulty "the emperor Frederic escaped their snares "and ambushes." In a noble manner of mixed dignity and indignation, the Christian knights replied, "Do you think, great prince, that we "have abandoned our fortunes and homes, that "we have taken the religious habit in a strange "land,

"land, only to betray the cause of God, and to lose our own salvation?" "Display your banner," exclaimed the master of the Templars to his standard-bearer, "arms and death must decide our fate and honour. We were invincible while we were united; but a spirit of division will destroy us." William Longsword interposed with the language of conciliation, urging the claims to attention which the experienced grand master possessed: but opposition still further inflamed the rage of the count; and, in the delirium of passion, he transgressed the bounds of chivalrous courtesy. "Behold the cowardice," he exclaimed, "of those men who wear tails.* How happy it would be for us if the army were quit of them." Longsword would not shew that he felt the insult, and mildly, yet firmly, observed, "Count Robert, I will go so far in danger to-day, that you shall not even dare to touch the tail of my horse." The soldiers rushed into Massoura; and heroic envy mocked at discipline and co-operation. But the enemy, seeing their squadrons scattered, recovered courage; and the green standard of the prophet was raised in sign of ferocious hostility. With all the appalling din of Tartarian war, the Mamlukes

Dreadful events in Massoura.

* See note Q.

CHAP. V. lukes burst upon the French. The count of Artois rallied his forces in the town. The Egyptian chief invested Massoura; and, with ability equal to his spirit, placed a body of troops in such a station as to intercept the communication between the count and the king. The soldiers in Massoura engaged the French. The inhabitants partook of the perils of the day, and poured upon their enemy with deadly effect burning coals, boiling water, and stones. The count survived not to witness all the dreadful issues of his rashness. William Longespee and a numerous band of gallant men also perished.* The grand master of St. John fell into the enemy's hands; and the master of the Templars was happy in escaping with the loss of an eye. On the side of the enemy Sacedeen was slain; but his station was quickly filled by a chief of equal bravery and conduct. The king and his army crossed the ford, and prevented the total rout of the Christians. His battle axe and German sword † dealt death wherever they fell.

* Joinville places the number that the French lost at three hundred knights; the Oriental Chronicle says one thousand four hundred. According to M. Paris, p. 686, of the military orders, only three Templars, four Hospitalians, and three Teutonic knights survived.

† The German swords were usually long, and are mentioned in opposition to the short swords of the French. Du Cange on Joinville, 328.

fell. The valiant master of the Templars was slain in this renewed engagement. Egyptian and Christian annalists have claimed the honour and rewards of victory for their respective sides: but in truth the result of the battle appears to have been indecisive.* The Saracens, however, cut off all communications between St. Louis and Damietta. Famine and disease appeared in the Christian camp, and the French described the latter of those evils as having sprung from a pestilential air emitted from the dead bodies of their friends and foes, and from eating eel pouts which had fed on corpses in the river.† Negotiations

Distresses of the French.

* Joinville, 155. Macrisi, 247.

† From this poisonous diet, "and from the bad air of a "country where it scarcely ever rains, the whole army was "infected by a shocking disorder which dried up the flesh "on one's legs to the bone, and our skins became tanned as "black as the ground, or like an old boot that has long "lain behind a coffer. In addition to this miserable dis-"order, those afflicted by it had another sore complaint in "the mouth from eating eel pouts that rotted the gums. "Very few escaped death that were attacked, and the surest "symptoms of its being fatal was a bleeding at the nose."— "The barbers were obliged to cut away large pieces of "flesh from the gums to enable the patient to eat. It was "pitiful to hear the cries and groans of those on whom the "operation was performed: they seemed like to the cries "of women in labour, and I cannot express the great con-"cern all felt who heard them." Joinville, 159, 162.

CHAP. V. Negotiations for peace were opened between the contending powers, and the exchange of the lordship of Jerusalem for that of Damietta formed the basis of the treaty. The king offered either of his brothers as a hostage for the delivery of Damietta to the Egyptians; but the sultan objected, and all hopes of peace were abandoned, because the Christians would not consent to the delivery of their king as the hostage. The miserable condition of the French army not only forbad all thoughts of victory, but imperatively called for a retreat to Damietta: The retreat was ordered; but those who attempted it by the river were taken by the enemy, and the fate of such as proceeded by land was equally disastrous. While they were occupied in constructing a bridge over the canal, the Muselmans entered the camp, and murdered the sick. The valiant Louis, though oppressed with the general calamity of disease, sustained boldly, with Sir Godfrey de Sergines, the shock of the enemy, and threw himself into the midst of them, resolved to perish in defending his troops. The brave Sergines, who never left him, succeeded at last in drawing him from the foe, and conducted him to a village, where his lassitude and wounds sunk him into insensibility and helplessness. In that state the Muselmans made

The king made prisoner.

made him prisoner. Charles count of Anjou, Alphonsus of Poitiers, and indeed all the nobility fell into the enemy's hands. The sultan clothed the king and the nobles with robes of honour, and treated them with kindness and generosity.* But many of the unfortunate men who were ill, and therefore useless, were killed by their new masters, in defiance of the command of Saladin and the general usage of oriental nations, not to put to death any one to whom they had given bread and salt. Other prisoners saved their lives by renouncing their religion: the Saracenic commander indulged the fanaticism of his people by allowing the converts to be received, though he well remembered the sage remark of Saladin, that a Christian was never known to make a good Moslem, nor a good Saracen a Christian.† So great were the calamities of the

* Joinville, 162, &c. De Guignes IV. 117, 119. After saying that he was taken prisoner, the seneschal of Champagne describes his feelings on the occasion. "I soon began to tremble, so that my teeth chattered as well from the fright I had as from the disorder." Joinville, 166.

† Joinville, 170. "Pure Paganism and native infidelity, like white cloth, will take the tincture of Christianity; whereas the Turks are soiled and stained with the irreligious religion of Muhammedanism, which first must with great pains be scoured out of them." Fuller's Holy War, book 4. ch. 3.

CHAP. V. the French in this attempted retreat, that twenty thousand were made captives, and seven thousand were slain or drowned.

As a ransom for the noble prisoners the sultan offered to accept of some of the baronial castles in Palestine, or those which belonged to the Templars and Hospitalians. But the king and his peers replied that the liege lord, the emperor of Germany, would never consent that a Pagan or Tartar should hold any fief of him; and that no cession of the property of the knights could be made, for the governors of their castles swore on their investiture that they would never surrender their charge for the deliverance of any man. The king was even threatened with torture, but as the Muselmans saw in him no symptoms of fear on which they could work, they proposed to take a pecuniary ransom. Louis offered to pay ten thousand golden besants, which were equal to five hundred thousand livres, for the deliverance of his army, and that, as the royal dignity could not be estimated by a vulgar scale, he would for his own freedom surrender the city of Damietta.* The sultan was

* The king at first said, if the sultan would be contented with a reasonable ransom, he would write to the queen to pay it for himself and his army. The Saracens enquired the reason

was liberal in the fulness of his joy at such a completion of his victories, and remitted a fifth part of the pecuniary ransom.* Peace was to continue for ten years between the Muselmans and the Christians, and the Franks were to be restored to those privileges in the kingdom of Jerusalem, which they enjoyed before the landing of Louis at Damietta. The repose which succeeded the treaty was interrupted by the murder of the sultan: but after a few acts of hostility the successful emirs, and their Mamelukes, renewed with a few changes the conditions of amity.† One moiety of the ransom was to

CHAP. V.

Is ransomed.

June, 1250.

reason of his wish for this preliminary. He answered that it was but reasonable he should consult with the queen, for she was his wife and companion. Joinville, 173. The treaty, however, was concluded without her knowledge. She quitted Damietta for Acre soon after the captivity of the king.

* Du Cange, 20th Dissert. on Joinville. Le Blanc (cited in L'Art de vérifier les Dates, I. 584) makes the ransom of St. Louis equivalent to seven millions of livres modern French money.

† The lord of Joinville, and some others, expected instant death from a party of Saracens that entered their galley. With regard to myself, (he says) I fell on my knees at the feet of one of them; and, making the sign of the cross, said, 'Thus did St. Agnes.' Sir Guy d'Ibelin, constable of Cyprus, knelt beside me, and confessed himself to me, and I gave him such absolution as God was pleased to grant me the

CHAP. V. to be discharged before the king left the river, and the other on his arrival at Acre. The sick at Damietta, with the stores and baggage, were to be retained by the sultan till the last portion of the ransom should be paid. Damietta was accordingly surrendered. But the Mamlukes were more savage and unprincipled than any preceding enemies of the Latin name. They burnt all the military engines, murdered the sick, and some of the most ferocious thirsted for the blood of the Christian potentates. They concealed their malignity under the mask of piety, and declared that as they had committed a sin, by destroying their sultan, whom by their law they should have guarded as the apple of their eye, so their religion would be injured if they suffered a Christian king to live. But other chiefs disdained any compromise with vice, and refused to participate in an act which never could be blotted from the records of time. The counsels of justice prevailed, and the Christians were relieved from their fears that the treaty would not be acted upon. The earls of Flanders and Brittany, the count of Soissons, and others embarked for France. The royal treasure

the power of bestowing; but of all the things he said to me, when I rose, I could not remember one of them. Joinville, 176.

treasure at Damietta could not furnish the stipulated portion of the ransom. The new grand master of the Templars opposed the institutes of his order to the king's request for a loan of the funds of the society, and contended that he could not divert them from their regular and appointed purposes. But state necessity trampled over mere statutable forms, and the chest of the Templars was seized by the royal officers. The king's person was redeemed, and the French went to Acre.*

The French go to Acre.

Before Louis could determine to what part of the holy regions before him he would direct his march, political news from France compelled him to inform his council, that he was divided between his duty to Europe, and his ardent wish to perfect the glorious work which he had begun. The cause of Palestine was the paramount principle in the breasts of the French lords; some of them urged the propriety of his return to the west, for the purpose of recruiting the

 sinews

* The expedition of St. Louis into Egypt resembles in many respects the war in Egypt thirty years before. In both cases the Christian armies were encamped near the entrance of the Ashmoum canal: they could not advance, and the surrender of Damietta was the price of safety. The errors of the cardinal Pelagius seem not to have been recollected by St. Louis.

CHAP. V. sinews of war; others presumed to think that his private treasures were not in the exhausted condition of the state finances, and that stipendiaries could be hired in Greece. "My lords," said the king, "I feel equally thankful to those "who have advised our return to France, as to "those who have recommended our stay in the "holy land. But I believe, that should we re- "main here, the dangers of my kingdom will "not, for that reason, increase; for my lady "mother, the queen, has a sufficiency of men "at arms to defend it. I have thought much "on what the knights of the country say, that "if I depart, the kingdom of Jerusalem will be "lost, since no one will remain here after me. "Now, my lords, having told my resolution, "let such speak out boldly as wish to continue "with me; my treasures shall support them. "God be with those that may not choose to "stay." Many of the council were astonished at this resolution of the king, and were divided in their patriotism and their allegiance.*

The sultan of Damascus, a relation of the murdered Egyptian lord, solicited the aid of Louis

* Joinville, 188, 191. On every affection of the mind, the warriors in Villehardouin and Joinville shed tears. They were as great weepers as Homer's heroes.

Louis to revenge the murder, and stimulated his virtue by the promise, that, in the event of victory, he would deliver to the Christians the city of Jerusalem.* The king replied, that he would send to the Mamlukes at Damietta, to know whether they would repair their violations of the treaty, and that, in case of their refusal, he would assist the sultan of Damascus. On intelligence of this negotiation, the people of Damietta restored to the king all the knights and common soldiers whom they had detained in prison. Louis wisely profited by circumstances, and declared that he would not enter upon a truce with the Egyptians, until they had absolved him from the payment of the remaining moiety of the ransom, and restored to him the heads of those Christians on the walls of Cairo, who had fallen in the battle near Massoura, and such Christian children as they had forced to become Muselmans.† The emirs and Mamlukes complied with these terms, and, on condition of the alliance of the French king, they engaged to deliver up to him Jerusalem itself. Louis remained a year at Cesarea, and rebuilt its houses and repaired its fortifications.‡

CHAP. V.

New hopes by reason of the Moslem dissensions.

* Joinville, 193.

† Joinville, 198, 199, 216.

‡ The military force of Louis did not much exceed four thousand men. The king's two brothers returned to Europe;

CHAP. V.

Jaffa was the next object of his care, and, in the course of time, he inclosed it with walls, and made its strength equal to its importance. The numerous forces of the sultan of Damascus prevented the Mamlukes from joining the king: but his allies returned to him the heads of the slain, and also the children that he had demanded. The war between the Egyptians and Syrians raged with dreadful violence, and with various success till they buried their mutual animosities in the common detestation of the French. By the mediation of the caliph, the Muselmans made peace; Egypt and Jerusalem were to be long

Those dissentions quelled.

rope; and, in order to retain a respectable army, Louis was obliged to be liberal of his treasure. Thirty-five knights banneret of Champagne were killed in various battles of Egypt. The king retained the remainder of Joinville's force, during six months, for two thousand livres. Afterwards, Joinville declared, that, "he would not take any "more of his money, but would offer other terms; which "were, that Louis would promise never to fly into a passion "for any thing which might be said to him by the seneschal, "who, in return, would engage to keep his temper whenever "any of his requests were refused." Joinville, 192, 205. The general rates of pay in the French army, were, for a knight banneret, twenty sous Tournois a-day; that of knights bachelors and esquires banneret, ten sous each; that of simple esquires, five sous; of gentlemen on foot, two sous; of serjents on foot, twelve deniers; and of cross-bow men, fifteen deniers. Du Cange, Diss. ix.

long to the Mamlukes; and the countries beyond the Jordan to the sultan of Syria.* But the united infidels did not pursue their schemes of destruction with that vigour and ability which had distinguished the fierce and dreadful movements of Noureddin and Saladin. They might have swept the feeble and exhausted Christians from the shores of Palestine; but they merely ravaged the country round Acre, and then proceeded to Sajecte, in whose strong castle were Louis and most of the army. The blood and property of the citizens satisfied the Moslems, who departed without trying the valour of the French in garrison. CHAP. V.

Perpetual disappointment gradually desiccated the spring of hope, and the king turned his mind to France. His friends marked his change of purpose,† and news from Europe of Failure of the crusade.

R 4 the

* De Guignes, livre xxi. Joinville, 212.

† Joinville relates a story somewhat amusing, expressive of his own good-humoured cunning. Previously to the arrival of the news mentioned in the text, he went on a pilgrimage to our lady of Tortosa, who performed all manner of miracles, except when she was busy in assisting the French king. Louis had desired the seneschal to purchase some camlets, which he wished to give the Cordeliers in France. Joinville fancied that this wish proceeded from an inclination to return, but he kept his conjectures in his own bosom, and, when the purchase had been made, and some knights

CHAP. V.

the death of his royal mother, the regent of his kingdom, made him openly proclaim his resolution to return. The patriarch and barons of Palestine offered him their humble thanks and praise for the great good and honour he had conferred on the holy land; and, shortly after Easter, he embarked for the west. Louis IX. gathered no new laurels in his transmarine expedition. All that was great and chivalric in France had been spread out in martial array, and had met with little else than discomfiture and defeat.*

Louis returns to France. April 1254.

knights asked him what he meant to do with so many camlets, the old soldier satisfied enquiry, by professing that he should turn merchant, and should endeavour to gain a profit by the resale of the camlets.

* In the course of Louis's stay at Jaffa, the sultan of Damascus sent him permission to visit Jerusalem. The king ardently desired to behold the sacred places, and was slow in allowing considerations of policy to conquer selfish feelings. The reason which dissuaded him from the journey, was, that if he should perform a pilgrimage to Jerusalem without delivering it from the enemies of God, every subsequent crusading monarch would think a similar proceeding sufficient, and would not consider himself obliged to perform more than what the king of France had done. St. Louis was also reminded, that Richard Cœur de Lion refused to behold Jerusalem as a pilgrim.

CHAP. VI.

THE LAST CRUSADE, AND LOSS OF THE HOLY LAND.

State of Palestine after the eighth Crusade.....War between the Templars and Hospitallers.....Progress of the Mamlukes of Egypt in the conquest of Palestine.....History of Antioch....Antioch taken by the Egyptians.....Louis IX. prepares for his second Crusade.....Crusading spirit in England .....Departure of Louis from France for the holy land.....He disembarks near Tunis.....His death .....Prince Edward leaves England.....He passes the winter in Sicily.....Arrives at Acre.....Captures Nazareth.....His cruelty.....Distresses of the English.....Edward wounded by an assassin... He makes peace with the Mamlukes, and returns to England.....Vain effort of Gregory IX. for a new Crusade.....Council of Lyons.....Further progress of the Mamlukes.....Last siege of Acre, and total loss of Palestine.

ALL the blood which had been shed, and all the treasure which France had lavished for the crusade of St. Louis, did not long preserve the Christians in Palestine from the hostilities of the Muselmans, and, as no new succours arrived from

1255, &c. State of Palestine.

CHAP. VI. from Europe, the barons and knights were compelled, in some cases, to keep within the shelter of their fortresses, and at other times to make disadvantageous treaties with their foe.* Although it was evident that nothing but unanimity in the holy warriors could preserve the remnants of the kingdom of Godfrey of Bouillon from annihilation, yet the Christians wasted their strength in party collisions, instead of watching the politics of the Saracenian courts, and gathering those branches of power which their enemies,† in their ambitious feuds, continually broke from the tree of Islamism. The haughty republicans of Italy would never enter into any common

* M. Paris, 785.

† The divisions among the Latins in Palestine were a fruitful source of public calamity. They are noticed by all the writers contemporaneous with, and immediately subsequent to, the crusades, as productive of the ruin of the kingdom. The general opinion of Europe on the history of Palestine, is expressed by Petrarch :—

Poi venía solo il buon duce Goffrido,
Che fè l' impresa santa, e i passi giusti.
Questo, di ch' io mi sdegno e 'ndarno grido,
Fece in Gierusalem con le sue mani
Il mal guardato e già negletto nido.
Ite, superbi e miseri Cristiani,
Consumando l' un l' altro, e non vi caglia,
Che 'l Sepolcro di Cristo è in man di cani.

Del Trionfo della Fama, cap. ii.

common bond of union, and the Venetians, the Pisans, and the Genoese had frequent hostile encounters, respecting the possession of churches to which each nation asserted her claims.* The two great military orders only forgot their mutual jealousies, when in the field they were opposed to the Muselmans; but, in every interval of peace, the knights, incapable of any exertions or thoughts but those which war inspired, gratified their arrogance and restlessness in disputes touching military prowess and precedency. As reason did not give birth to those altercations, she did not control the decision. The jealousy and rancour of the Hospitalians and Red-cross knights was frequently aggravated by irregular skirmishes, and, at length, the kindred squadrons met in a general engagement. Victory sat on the helms of the cavaliers of St. John: few prisoners were taken, and scarcely a Templar escaped alive.† But new companions from Europe gradually filled the places of the deceased brethren. New occasions demanded all their valour and skill, and civil discord was lost amidst

CHAP. VI.

War between the Templars and Hospitallers.

1259.

* Chron. F. Pipini in Muratori, Scrip. Rer. Ital. ix. 712. James de Vitry marks with severity the money-getting and jealous passions of the Italian republicans. P. 1089 in Bongarsius.

† M. Paris, 846.

CHAP. VI. amidst the more honourable war with the real enemies of the state. A blood-stained revolution in Egypt had placed the Mamluke chief Bibars, or Bendocdar,* on the throne of that country; he was well disposed to lead his savage Mamlukes against the Christians: and his ferocity did not want the excitement which the military orders gave it, of refusing, contrary to treaty, to deliver to him some Muhammedan prisoners.†

Progress of the Mamlukes. 1263.

His soldiers, as savage as the Korasmians, demolished the churches of Nazareth and the fortress and church on Mount Thabor. They made their way to the gates of Acre with fire and sword, and such of the Christians as were immediately slain were not so much objects of compassion as the prisoners, on whom the Turks inflicted every description of torture, in order to force a change of religion. Though Acre itself was saved for a few years, yet Cesarea did not escape the wide-spreading calamities.‡ Through these dreadful scenes the military orders fought with their usual heroism, and in the sieges of

1265—6. the strong fortresses of Azotus and Saphoury, the

* The full name of this gentleman was Al Malek al Dhaker Rokneddin Abulfeth Bibars al Alai al Bundokdari al Salehi.

† De Guignes, livre xxi.

‡ Sanutus, lib. iii. c. vii.

the spirit of devotion which they manifested to their cause had never been equalled. The small force of ninety Hospitallers held possession of the former of these places. The number gradually diminished on each renewed assault, and when the Turks mounted the breach they trampled on the bodies of the last of the knights. After ravaging the neighbourhood of Acre, Tyre, and Tripoli, the Egyptians laid siege to the fortress of Saphoury. The fall of that place was inevitable, and the prior of the Templars therefore agreed to capitulate, and, on the surrender being made, the knights and garrison, altogether amounting to six hundred men, were to be conducted to the next Christian town. The sultan was invested with lordship over the fortress, but he violated the conditions of the surrender, and left the knights only a few hours to determine on the alternative of death or conversion to Islamism. The prior and two Franciscan monks were earnest in fixing the faith of the religious cavaliers, and, at the appointed time for the declaration of their choice, they unanimously avowed their determination to die rather than incur the dishonour of apostacy. The decree for the slaughter of the Templars was pronounced and executed; and the three preachers of martyrdom were flead alive.* CHAP. VI.

Before

* De Guignes, livre xxi.

CHAP. VI.

History of Antioch. A. D. 1206—1268.

Before we continue our view of the calamities of Palestine, a retrospect must be taken of a principality whose fate was closely connected with that of the Latin kingdom of Jerusalem. Bohemond IV. continued to be the reputed lord of Antioch, from the year 1206* till the time of his death, in 1233. But for many years during this interval he did not exercise any royal authority, for he was a tyrant, and was both hated by the people and excommunicated by the clergy. His nephew Rupin, the right heir, was aided by the papal legate, who was present at the great siege of Damietta, in the year 1218, and made several attempts to recover his thrones of Antioch and Tripoli: but he died some years before Bohemond, in a prison at Tarsus, into which he had been cast by Constantius, nominal regent of Antioch, and guardian of Isabella, daughter and successor of Livon, king of Armenia. From Bohemond IV. and his first wife Plaisance, daughter of the lord of Gabala, Bohemond V. descended. To him succeeded Bohemond VI. It does not appear that the family of the Bohemonds were entire masters of the principality and county from the year 1233 till their absorption in the Egyptian power. It is certain that Bohemond V. was reigning over Antioch and Tripoli

* See page 153, ante.

Tripoli in 1244, when he became tributary to the Korasmians; and, that in 1253 Bohemond VI. was made a knight by St. Louis, and was considered lawful prince of Antioch, though he was a minor, and under his mother's tutelage! But it is equally certain that at times, from 1233 to 1288, Frederic * and Conrad, a son and grandson of the emperor Frederic II. had possession of all or part of the states of Antioch and Tripoli.† CHAP. VI.

We may now resume the thread of the general history. Jaffa and the castle of Beaufort were the

* Prince Frederic was the illegitimate son of the emperor Frederic II. Whether the mother of this prince was an Armenian or Antiochean princess is very doubtful. If the former, she might have been the daughter of Haiton, king of Armenia; but if the latter, it is almost impossible to conjecture her family history. Prince Frederic was frequently called prince of Antioch, a title he would have claimed in either case, for the lordship over Antioch was boasted of by the Bohemonds, and also by the Armenian chiefs. Giannone, Istoria di Napoli, lib. 17. ch. 6. Henninges, Theatrum Genealogicum, tom. iv. pars 1. p. 47, pars 3. p. 462. Haiton. Hist. Orient. Appendix.

† A very thick cloud hangs over the history of Antioch; and few writers have taken the trouble of endeavouring to pierce it. See M. Damiani's Essay on the Vicissitudes of Antioch during the time of the Crusades in the fifteenth volume of the Archæologia.

CHAP. VI.

the Mamluke conquests which succeeded in point of time to those of Azotus and Saphoury.*

A. D. 1268. Antioch taken by the Egyptians.

The tempest at length burst upon the state of Antioch; and the city of that principality yielded without even the formality of a siege.† The reproach of treachery is alternately cast upon the patriarch and the inhabitants; and heavy is the disgrace of causing an event which occasioned the destruction of forty thousand, and the captivity of one hundred thousand Christians. Bibars ravaged the country round Tyre; but being equally religious as cruel, he gave the Franks a respite by pilgrimising to the holy places in Arabia. He soon, however, resumed his fell purpose of exterminating the Christians: Laodicea and many other places submitted to him; and the knights of St. John gained immortal honour by their brave, though fruitless, defence of the fortress of Karac, between Arca and Tortosa.‡ The prince of Tripoli preserved his title by the sacrifice of half of his territory. Acre was saved in consequence of the reported succour of the king of Cyprus. Bibars returned to Cairo, hastily fitted out a fleet for the conquest

* Sanutus, lib. 3. pars 12, c. 6, 8. Plagon, p. 737.

† Sanutus, lib. 3. pars 12. c. 9. De Guignes, vol. iv. p. 143.

‡ Sanutus, lib. 3. pars 14. cap. 2.

quest of the island, which was without the presence of its monarch. But his ships were lost in a tempest; Cairo was overwhelmed with sorrow, and none of his efforts could re-establish affairs.* CHAP. VI.

1268. Louis IX. prepares for his second Crusade.

Before the news of the capture of Antioch reached Europe, the people of the west had contemplated a new crusade. St. Louis thought that his first expedition to the holy land brought more shame on France than good on the Christian cause; and he feared that his own personal fame had withered. The Pope encouraged his inclinations for a new attempt; and, in a general assembly of prelates, nobility, and people at Paris, the king exhorted his hearers to revenge the wrongs which Christ had so long suffered.† England was at that time in a state of repose, and her martial youth were impatient of indolence. The king held a parliament at Northampton; the legate of the Pope acquainted the assembly of the necessity of preserving what yet remained to the Christians of the holy land; and prince Edward, with the earls of Warwick 1268.

* De Guignes, livre 21.

† William of Nangis, in the fifth volume of Du Chesne, p. 384, &c. After the king's return from Palestine he was more simple in his dress than ever; and he gave up the luxuries of gilt spurs and stirrups. Joinville, 233.

CHAP. VI. and Pembroke, received the holy ensign from his hands.* The assumption of the cross by the heir of the English throne spread great joy throughout France. He was invited to Paris; 1269. the co-operation of the English and French was determined upon; and Louis lent his youthful ally thirty thousand marks on the security of the customs of Bourdeaux.† The prelates and clergy of England agreed to contribute a tenth of their revenues for three years; and, by a parliamentary ordinance, a twentieth part was taken from the corn and moveables which the laity possessed at Michaelmas. A crusade had for many years been popular in England. During the first expedition of St. Louis, and soon after the departure of William Longsword, Henry III. engaged to fight under the sacred banners. But he was slow in preparing to go to the holy land; and the public murmured the suspicion that he had only assumed the cross as a pretence for collecting money. Avowing that duty to a heavenly master was paramount to allegiance to a king of earth, they who had taken the badge of fellowship met at Bermondsey, near London, in order to unite their counsels and resolves. It was

Crusading spirit in England.

* Waverley in Gale, vol. ii. p. 225.

† Wikes, 290. Cont. of M. Paris, 857. See the treaty between Louis and Edward, in Rymer, I. 481.

was found that five hundred knights had been crossed; and the number of inferior people could not be counted. The holy warriors resolved to commence their voyage at midsummer; but the king had anticipated all their proceedings; and he declared that if they dared to march without him, the thunders of the Vatican should be hurled against them. Some people submitted to, and others clamoured at this menace of papal interference; and the religious ardour of the most enthusiastic was cooled by the king's delays, and the news of the disastrous events in Egypt. The Pope and king were deaf to the reproaches of the French nation, that indifference to Christianity could be the only motive for obstructing the pious wishes of the English people.* The king's poverty was ever

 the

* M. Paris, 670, 671. "About this time (1250) many "thousands of the English were resolved for the holy war, "and would needs have been gone, had not the king strictly "guarded his ports, and kept his kingdom from running "away out of doors. The king promised he would go with "them; and hereupon got a mass of money from them for "this journey. Some say that he never intended it, and "that this only was a trick to stroke the skittish cow to get "down her milk. His stubborn subjects said that they "would tarry for his company till midsummer, and no "longer. Thus they weighed out their obedience with "their own scales; and the king stood to their allowance. "But hearing of the ill success of the French, both prince "and

CHAP. VI. the alleged cause of his remissness; and two years after his dissolution of the association of English knights, he endeavoured to extort money from the clergy, on the pretence of a journey to Syria. But they resisted his demands; reproached him with his avarice and violation of oaths; and warned him of the fate of St. Louis, who was at that time in the hands of the Saracens.* But the military spirit of the people rose above the calculating duplicity of the king; and though he disregarded, yet they were deeply affected by the appeals and entreaties which the clergy, barons, and military orders made to him to perform his engagement with God.†

A. D. 1270. Departure of Louis IX. Anticipating the laurel of victory, or the crown of martyrdom, St. Louis spread his sails for the holy land.‡ Sixty thousand soldiers were

" and people altered their resolution, who had come too late " to help the French in their distress, and too soon to bring " themselves into the same misery." Fuller, History of the Holy War, book 4, ch. 17.

* M. Paris, 717, 720, &c.

† Rymer, i. 308, 321. In 1252, however, Henry wrote to the three great military orders that he would go to the holy land at the end of four years, i. 282.

‡ Like the two preceding Crusades, the ninth and last great transmarine expedition was partly composed of Englishmen and partly of Frenchmen. My authorities are Sanutus, William de Nangis, Matthew of Westminster, Wikes, the

were animated by their monarch's feelings of religious and military ardour: and we may remark among the leaders the lords of Flanders, Champagne, and Brittany, whose ancestors had so often distinguished themselves for martial spirit and ability in fighting the battles of the cross. The fleet was driven into Sardinia; and at that place a great change was made in the plan of operations. The king of Tunis had formerly sent ambassadors to Louis, and expressed a wish to embrace the only true religion. His Christian ally thought that the presence of a large army would prevent the Moors from offering any violence to the inclinations of the king. Northern Africa had formerly paid a pecuniary tribute to the sovereign of the two Sicilies; and Charles of Anjou, the reigning monarch, concealing his selfishness under the garb of piety and justice, strongly urged his brother to restore the rights of Christendom. The soldiers too, now more greedy of plunder and revenge than zealous in bigotry, entreated to be led to Tunis, a city that popular rumour had described as abounding in wealth, and which, as the faithful friend of Egypt, had long been hated by Europe. The subjugation of the

 Muselmans

the chronicle of Mailros, Hemingford, the continuation of Matthew Paris, and Abulfeda.

CHAP. VI. Muselmans in Africa was declared to be a necessary preliminary to successes in Palestine; the French soon reached the first object of their hopes; and the camp and town of Carthage* were the earliest rewards of victory. But every sanguine expectation was damped when a pestilential disease spread its ravages through the Christian ranks. The great stay of the Crusades fell. During his illness Louis ceased not to praise God, and supplicate for the people whom he had brought with him. He became speechless; he then gesticulated what he could not utter: he perpetually made signs of the cross, stretched himself on the floor, which was covered with ashes; and in the final struggle of nature he turned his eyes to Heaven, and exclaimed, "I will enter thy house, I will worship in thy sanctuary."†

He lands near Tunis.

Death of Louis IX. August 1270.

Before this calamitous event prince Edward, Edmund Crouchback, earl of Lancaster, four earls,

Prince Edward leaves England.

* Ce n'est pas un des moindres exemples des jeux de la fortune, que les ruines de Carthage aient vu mourir un roi chrétien qui venait combattre des Muselmans dans un pays où Didon avait apporté les Dieux des Syriens. Voltaire, Essai sur les Mœurs des Nations, ch. 58.

† Nangis, p. 386—389, 393. Epistle of the bishop of Thunes, an eye-witness, Martenne, vi. 1218. Sanutus, lib. 3. pars 12. cap. 10.

earls, four barons, and the English division, had not only arrived in Africa, but had left it for Sicily in despair that their French compeers would ever march to Palestine.* The defection of his allies would have justified prince Edward in returning to England: but he embraced the prospect of undivided glory; and he swore that although all his soldiers should desert him, he would go to Acre attended only by his groom. The winter season was passed by him in military exercises, and in the various occupations of chivalry, and in the following spring he turned his prow up the Mediterranean, and arrived at Acre. The whole of the forces of Edward did not exceed one thousand men. But the prowess of the Plantagenets was dreaded by the Muselmans; and they feared that another Cœur de Lion was come to scourge them. The sultan of Egypt departed from the vicinity of Acre which he had devastated with fire and sword. All the Latins in Palestine crowded round the banner of the English prince; and he took the field at the head of seven thousand men. The city of Nazareth was redeemed; and he surprised and defeated a large Turkish force. Edward was brave and provident, and owed his

CHAP. VI.

Passes the winter in Sicily.

April 1271.

Arrives at Acre.

Captures Nazareth.

 success

† Annals of Waverley, in Gale, vol. ii. p. 225. Continuation of M. Paris, 859. Hemingford, iii. 589.

CHAP. VI. success as much to his skill as to his courage. But he was not less cruel than any preceding hero of the holy wars; and he gave a dreadful earnest of that savage implacability which Scotland afterwards so often rued. The barbarities which stained the entry of the Christians into Jerusalem two centuries before were repeated in a smaller theatre of cruelty in Nazareth.*

His cruelties.

But the march of victory was closed, for the English soldiers were parched by the rays of a Syrian sun, and their leader was extended on the bed of sickness. The governor of Jaffa was the apparent friend of Edward, but the sultan's threat of degradation, if further commerce were held with an infidel, changed courtesy into malignity, and his brutal zeal for the display of his loyalty must have satisfied even the suspicious bosom of a tyrant. He hired the dagger of one of those assassins who had escaped the proscription which the Tartars, mercifully for the world, had made of the followers of the old man of the mountain. The wretch, as the bearer of letters, was admitted into the chamber of his intended victim. The purpose of his errand being accomplished, he drew a poinard from

* Hemingford, iii. 590. Chronicle of Mailros, i. 241.

from the concealment of his belt, and aimed a blow at Edward's breast. After receiving two or three wounds, the vigorous prince threw the villain on the floor, and stabbed him to the heart.* The dagger had been steeped in poison, and for some hours Edward's fate was involved in danger. The fairy hand of fiction has ascribed his convalescence to one of that sex, whose generous affections are never restrained by the chilling calculations of selfishness. But the stern pen of history has recorded that his restoration to health was the simple result of surgical skill, co-operating with the salient spring of a vigorous frame.† The English soldiers burned CHAP. VI.

* After alluding to Prince Edward's exploits in the holy land, Ben Jonson says,

For which his temper'd zeal, see Providence
Flying in here, and arms him with defence
Against th' assassinate made upon his life
By a foul wretch, from whom he wrests the knife,
And gives him a just hire: which yet remains
A warning to great chiefs, to keep their trains
About them still, and not, to privacy
Admit a hand, that may use treachery.

Prince Henry's Barriers. Works, VII. 169.

† Chronicon F. Pipini in Muratori, Rer. Scrip. Ital. vol. 7. p. 705, 714. Matthew of Westminster, p. 400. ed. Franc. 1601. P. Langtoft's Chron, p. 227. Wikes, p. 97. Hemingford, p. 591. Contin. of Matthew Paris, 859. The story

CHAP. VI. burned to revenge on the Turkish people the dastardly act of the assassin. But Edward checked

story of Eleanora's sucking the venom from her husband's wound would always have been considered a fable, if that respectable writer, Camden, (vol. 2. p. 103. Gough's edit.) had not mentioned it as an historical fact. Camden took it from a Spanish historian, who wrote two hundred years after the event. Hemingford expressly says, that the grand master of the Templars immediately sent his royal friend some precious drugs to stop the progress of the venom. A mortification was however apprehended, and an English physician undertook to cut out the bad part. The prince ordered Edward and John de Vesey to lead Eleanor out of the room, and those knights, not very gentle to the lady's feelings, told her it was better that she should shed a few tears, than that England should for ever mourn. Hemingford, p. 501. "It is storied, says Fuller, how Eleanor, his lady, "sucked all the poison out of his wounds without doing any "harm to herself. So sovereign a remedy is a woman's "tongue, anointed with the virtue of loving affection. Pity "it is that so pretty a story should not be true (with all the "miracles in love's legends), and sure he shall get himself "no credit, who undertaketh to confute a passage so sound- "ing to the honour of the sex. Yet can it not stand with "what others have written." Fuller's Holy War, book 4. ch. 29. The story most likely took its rise from the circumstance that in the middle ages chirurgical knowledge was an elegant female accomplishment. The fair practisers of leechcraft were of course in high repute, "and it is probable "that their attentive and compassionate solicitude may "have frequently proved more efficacious than the nos- "trums of the faculty, even when assisted by the magical "power of amulets, or the more orthodoxy energy of holy "water."

checked them, and forgot his own injuries when he reflected that were he to sanction murder, the humble unarmed pilgrims could never claim the protection of the Saracens. After the English prince had been fourteen months in Acre, the sultan of Egypt offered peace, for wars with the Moslem powers engrossed his military strength. Edward gladly seized this occasion of leaving the holy land, for his force was too small for the achievement of great actions, and his father had implored his return to England.* The hostile commanders signed accordingly a treaty for a ten years' suspension of arms: the lords of Syria disarrayed their warlike front, and the English soldiers quitted Palestine for their native country. CHAP. VI.

He makes peace with the Mamlukes.

July, 1272.

At the time when Palestine began to breathe from the horrors of war, hope once more raised her head in consequence of the election to the chair of St. Peter falling upon Theobald, archdeacon of Liege. The choice of the cardinals was made known to him while he was in Palestine. He had witnessed with sorrow and indignation the dreadful extremities to which the Christians were reduced, and in the tumult of the passions his reason did not allow him to measure

Vain effort of Gregory IX. for new Crusades.

* See the letter in Rymer. vol. 1. p. 487, new edition.

CHAP. VI. sure objects by their practicability. He impatiently transported himself to Italy, and so ardent was his zeal that his endeavours for a Crusade even preceded his introduction to the Pontificate. The trumpet of war again was heard among the nations. The blast was however only faintly echoed. The republics of Pisa, Genoa and Venice, and the city of Marseilles, agreed to furnish a few gallies, and twenty-five thousand marks of silver were obtained from Philip the hardy on mortgage of the Templars' estates in France. The masters of the military friars and red cross knights went to Rome, and convinced their papal friend that these succours would be too inconsiderable to enable the Christians to drive the infidels out of Palestine. Again was the Christian world assembled, and the council of Lyons decreed the obligation of a new crusade; that the clergy should pay a tenth of their revenues for six years, and that boxes should be placed in churches, for the voluntary oblations of the laity. Rodolph of Habsburgh was wise in uniting himself with the Pope, and gaining papal support in his new dignity of emperor of Germany. Philip the French king, Michael Palæologus, and Charles, at once count of Anjou and king of the two Sicilies, also embraced the cause. Philip inherited the piety of his

May, 1274. Council of Lyons.

his father; and Michael, who, thirteen years be- CHAP. VI.
fore had taken Constantinople from the Franks, was eager to embrace any occasion of obtaining the favour of the western princes. Charles pretended anxiety to repair the disasters which the imprudence of his brother the count of Artois, during the first crusade of St. Louis, had occasioned, and he thought that the duties of a sovereign devolved upon him, because, in the council of Lyons, Mary princess of Antioch, daughter of Bohemond IV. ceded to him her rights over the kingdom of Jerusalem.* But Pope Gregory died within two years after the sitting of the Lyonese council, and all thoughts of a Crusade were dropped when the life of its great promoter

* Giannone (l. 20. c. 2. s. 1) is incorrect in stating that the princess ceded her rights to Antioch. The Angevine kings of Naples and Sicily founded their title to the crown of Jerusalem on the marriage of Frederic with Violante, and on the cession mentioned in the text. But when Conradin died, the race of the Suabian dynasty became extinct, and the title to the throne of Jerusalem went to the princess Alice (whom we have already mentioned) the daughter of Henry count of Champagne and Isabella. The princess Alice carried her rights into the family of the kings of Cyprus, and those rights had precedence of the claims of the princess Mary, the daughter of the youngest daughter of Isabella. In short the family of Anjou had no juster claim to the throne of Jerusalem than they had to the throne of the two Sicilies.

CHAP. VI. promoter closed. Palestine however was at peace, and the Christians therefore indulged their vanity, and engaged their passions in disputing about the pageantry of power. Hugh III. king of Cyprus, a lineal descendant of the princess Alice, had been crowned king of Jerusalem at Tyre, a short time before the death of Conradin, the last unhappy descendant of that house of Germany, of which three emperors had supported and adorned holy wars. The Templars befriended Charles of Anjou, but the Hospitallers, with more virtue than was generally shewn, declared that they could not fight against any Christian prince, and contended that the claims for succession to the kingdom ought to be deferred till the kingdom itself should be recovered. In the fourth year of the peace which the valiant prince Edward had gained for Palestine, the Mamluke chief and king Bendoctar, died. In the reign of Keladun, the third sultan in succession to him who had torn so many cities from the Christians, the war was
A. D. 1280. renewed. The restless Franks in the fortress of Margat plundered and insulted some inoffensive Muselman traders; an emir of Egypt made a gallant, but fruitless, attempt to revenge this violation of the law of nations, and his master swore by God and his prophet that he would avenge

avenge the wrong; and after a few years of dreadful preparation the living cloud of war burst upon the Christians. Margat was captured; but so brave had been the resistance of the knights that it procured them a safe and honourable retreat to the neighbouring town of Tortosa, and the sultan, dreading even the possibility of future opposition, razed the fortress. CHAP. VI. 1287.

With rapid and certain steps the power of the Latins approached its fatal termination. The city of Tripoli, that last remaining satellite of the kingdom of Jerusalem, was taken; its houses were burnt, its works dismantled, and its people murdered or retained in slavery. Acre once more became the principal possession of the Christians. The sultan concluded a treaty of peace with Henry II. of Cyprus, who had driven away the lieutenants and soldiers of Charles, and had been acknowledged king of Jerusalem.* Nothing but total ruin could quench the heroic spirit of those cavaliers, who thought that to fall in the ensanguined field was the height of glory and virtue. Undismayed by the victories of the sultan, the grand master of the 1289. Progress of the Mamlukes.

* Sanutus, lib. iii. pars 12. cap. xx. De Guignes, livre xxi. In the year 1287, two years before the loss of Tripoli, Bohemond VII. count of that place, died.

CHAP. VI. the military friars took the occasion of the cessation of hostilities, and crossed the Mediterranean, in order to infuse his martial spirit into the people of the west. Pope Nicholas IV. heard with coldness the dismal tale. He declined to open the treasury of St. Peter for the advancement of the Christian cause, and he gave his noble friend only fifteen hundred men, the off-scourings of Italy. Circular letters were sent to the different European potentates, but the light which once shone upon the holy cause had waned; cavaliers no longer thronged round the cross, and the grand master was compelled to return to Palestine, accompanied only by his Italian banditti. When they arrived at Acre, the city was in the greatest state of turbulence. Within its walls were crowded the wretched remains of those kingdoms and principalities which had been won by the blood of the west. Every distinct people occupied a particular division, and, in the assertion of individual privileges, general interests were forgotten.* The

* Old Fuller has given a faithful picture of the state of Acre. "In it were some of all countries; so that he who "had lost his nation, might find it here. Most of them had "several courts to decide their causes in, and the plenty of "judges caused the scarcity of justice, malefactors appealing to a trial in the courts of their own country. It was "sufficient innocence for any offender in the Venetian "court,

The Mamlukes of Egypt regarded, with an eye of fanatical hatred and rapacious ambition, the shelter of the Christian powers. The principles of Islamism would have justified the sultan in making war, but the criminal conduct of his foe gave him secular reasons for commencing hostilities. Acre was crowded with people beyond its means of support, and some of the wretched inhabitants robbed and tortured the Muselman merchants who occasionally visited the city with provisions, under the protection of the acknowledged friendship which existed between the CHAP. VI.

 Egyptians

"court, that he was a Venetian. Personal acts were entitled national, and made the cause of the country. Outrages were every where practised, no where punished; as if to spare divine revenge the pains of overtaking them, they would go forth and meet it. At the same time, they were in fitters about prosecuting their titles to this city, no fewer than the Venetians, Genoese, Pisans, Florentines, the kings of Cyprus and Sicily, the agents for the kings of France and England, the princes of Tripoli and Antioch, the patriarch of Jerusalem, the masters of the Templars and Hospitallers, and (whom I should have named first) the legate of his Holiness, all at once, with much violence, contending about the right of right nothing, the title to the kingdom of Jerusalem, and command of this city, like bees, making the greatest humming and buzzing in the hive when now ready to leave it." Holy War, book iv. ch. xxxii.

CHAP. VI.

Egyptians and the Christians.* No redress was made for this violation of justice. The sultan died before his preparations of vengeance were completed, but his son Khatil was not less anxious than his father to exterminate the infidel miscreants. Nearly two hundred thousand Mamluke Tartars of Egypt marched into Palestine, and encamped before Acre, exactly on the same ground upon which a century before assembled Europe had stood. To avoid the dreadful consequences of war, a large part of the population embarked in the numerous vessels which at that time rode at anchor in the harbour, and the defence of the place was left to the care of about twelve thousand soldiers, chiefly the knights and serjeants of the military orders. The garrison was speedily reinforced by a few hundred men, headed by Henry II. of Cyprus, who boasted the ideal title of king of Jerusalem. But there was no magic in the name of royalty, and, in this exigent state of affairs, the troops looked for the direction of Peter de Beaujeu, grand master of the Templars. He accepted the charge, and his first action of rejecting the bribes of the sultan inspired the animating conviction, that Acre would never fall in consequence of the treachery of the commander.

April 1291. Last siege of Acre.

* G. Villani.

mander. But the Mamlukes were equal in valour, and superior in discipline, to their foes, and their number was appallingly formidable. Unable to defend, with equal effect, the circuit of walls, the Christians beheld their towers yielding to the mines and battering rams. The "cursed tower" fell; the king, whose station was at that part of the fortifications, requested the Teutonic knights to relieve his attenuated band, and he promised to return to his post on the following morning. But the pusillanimous monarch fled to the port, and, siezing a few ships, sailed to Cyprus. With the morn, the Mamlukes renewed the attack. Most of the German cavaliers died upon the breach; the others slowly left the walls, and the firmness of their little phalanx checked the foe. The Hospitalians chased back the Mamlukes, and even forced them headlong into the ditch. But the sultan was prodigal of blood. His battalions marched to the breach, and in a few hours the entry into the city was repeatedly lost and won by the Christians and infidels. CHAP. VI.

While Acre was bleeding with these vicissitudes, the master of the Hospitalians and his knights secretly left the city, made a short circuit, and rushed into the enemy's camp. The sultan, a skilful soldier, was not surprised, and

CHAP. VI. the knights were repulsed. The chief of the military friars received the melancholy news, that the grand master* of the Templars had been killed by a poisoned arrow; that most of his valiant soldiers had been slain, and that the city had fallen. Under the cover of a few cross-bow men, the knights of St. John, seven only were the remnant, embarked, and left for ever the scene of their virtue and their valour. Their brethren in arms, the Templars, were equally brave, and their fate was equally disastrous. Their resistance was so firm, that the sultan was compelled to promise them a free and honourable departure. But the insults of some low Saracenian people irritated the cavaliers; the sword again was drawn, and such of the Templars as survived the conflict, fled into the interior country. The unarmed population of Acre hurried to the coast; but the elements co-operated with the devastating spirit of the Turks, and the tempestuous waves refused shelter to the fugitives. While gnashing with despair, the people beheld their town in flames. The ruthless

* The grand master of the Templars receives high praise from G. Villani. The hero every night repaired the breaches in the cursed tower; but he was at length killed by the enemy, and, in consequence of his death, confusion again arose, and the city was lost. G. Villani, lib. vii. c. 144.

ruthless hand of death fell upon them, and the sea-shore of Palestine again drank torrents of Christian blood. CHAP. VI.

Tyre, Berithus, and other towns, were awed into submission. The Turks swept all Palestine, and murdered or imprisoned all the Christians who could not fly to Cyprus. The memory of the Templars is embalmed, for the last struggle for the holy land was made by the Red-cross knights. Such as escaped from Acre went to Sis, in Armenia. A Muselman general drove them to the island of Tortosa, whence they escaped to Cyprus, and the cry of religious war no longer rung through Palestine.* Total loss of the holy land.

T 3

* Sanutus, lib. iii. pars xii. ch. xxii. xxiii. The history of the siege of Acre, by a contemporary, in Martenne, Vet. Scrip. Amp. Coll. vol. i. p. 782. De Guignes, Hist. des Huns, &c. livre xxi. Lusignano, Istoria dell' Isola di Cipro, p. 55, &c. Palestine was not more celebrated for virtue at the close of the crusades, than at any period during their continuance. Speaking of the loss of Acre, G. Villani says, Et questo pericolo non fu sanza grande et giusto giudicio di Dio, che quella città era piena di più peccatori huomini, e femine d' ogni dissoluto peccato, che terra, che fasse tra' Christiani. G. Villani, lib. vii. c. 144, p. 337, vol. i.

CHAP. VII.

EXTINCTION OF THE CRUSADING SPIRIT. FATE OF THE MILITARY ORDERS.

State of Europe at the close of the Crusades.....Reasons of the ceasing of Crusades.....Last appearances of the crusading spirit.....King Henry IV. of England.....Harry Monmouth.....Fate of the military orders.....The Teutonic knights.....The knights of St. Lazarus.....Knights of St. John.... Imprisonment of the Templars in France.....Proceedings against the Templars at Paris.....Process against the Templars in England....In Germany.... In Italy.....Council at Vienne.....The order suppressed.....Confiscation of its estates.....Execution of the grand master.....Innocence of the Templars.....Causes of the suppression of the order.

State of Europe at the close of the crusades.

THE loss of the holy land did not fill Europe with those feelings of grief and indignation, which, the fall of Jerusalem, an hundred years before, had occasioned. The flame of fanaticism had slowly burnt out. During the thirteenth century, the territorial possessions of the Christians in Palestine gradually diminished; the expeditions and reinforcements were in consequence less vigorous, for, both politically and personally, the

the people of the west declined in their interest in respect of the affairs of the east. Pope Nicholas IV. endeavoured to revive holy undertakings; but the kings of Europe were deaf or disobedient. After his arrival in England, prince Edward had wished to return to Palestine,* and continue his military career, but he had just entered into the agitated sea of Scottish politics when Acre fell into the hands of the Egyptians. The delivery of the holy land was, however, a phantom always dear to his imagination, as opening an ample subject for religious and knightly enterprise. In the decline of life he vowed a second expedition, but, finding his dissolution approach, he devoted the prodigious sum of thirty thousand pounds for the equipment and support of a proud corps of knights that were to carry his heart to Palestine.† Philip IV. of France could never be awakened by any summons to religion and honour: and since the extinction of the Suabian family, the succession to the German throne had been so irregular, that the emperors were perpetually involved in civil dissentions. The politics of the commercial states of Italy did not accord with religious wars. Pisa had fallen before

CHAP. VII. 1292.

* Rymer, i. 744, 749, new edition.

† See note (R).

CHAP. VII. Genoa. The conquering town thought not of Syria; for it had enjoyed, since the Greeks had regained Constantinople, the ascendency of the commerce of the Black Sea. As Genoa was allied to the Grecian emperor, Venice sought the friendship of the Muselmans. The Mamlukes gave their Christian brothers a church, an exchange, and a magazine in Alexandria: and the Venetians carried on the lucrative but disgraceful trade of furnishing the Egyptian market with male and female slaves from Georgia and Circassia.*

From

* Dante reprobates his contemporaries for joining the Saracens, and also for carrying on trade with the enemies of the Christian name. If Boniface VIII. be the Pope alluded to in the following extract, the censure seems misplaced, as he endeavoured to create a new Crusade.

Lo principe de' nuovi Farisei,
Avendo guerra presso a Laterano,
E non con Saracin, nè con Giudei,
Che ciascun suo nemico era Cristiano,
E nessuno era stato a vincere Acri,
Ne mercatante in terra di Soldano.
Dell' Inferno, canto 27.

The chief of the new Pharisees meantime,
Waging his warfare near the Lateran,
Not with the Saracens, or Jews, (his foes
All Christians were, nor against Acre one
Had fought, nor traffic'd in the Soldan's land.)
Cary's Translation.

Villani

CHAP. VII.

Reasons of the ceasing of Crusades.

From the commencement,* till past the middle of the fourteenth century, the Popes repeatedly sounded the charge; but the west in most cases disregarded the summons of its ghostly instructor; and it was evident that, although the papal rulers could fan, they could not create the sacred flame. Yet the world did not repent of

Villani supports the idea that the mercantile Christians in Egypt aided the Saracens. The instances of treachery alluded to by Dante, I am not able to support by any historical testimony.

* There was some pretence for the preaching of a Crusade by Pope Boniface VIII. in the year 1300. Cazan, the mogul sultan of Persia, resolved to exterminate the Mamlukes of Egypt. He allied himself with the kings of Georgia, Armenia, and Cyprus. In 1299 the fortune of war smiled on the allies; but still the success not being so great as what he had expected, Cazan sent to the Pope, soliciting the more powerful alliance of the princes of the west, and agreeing that when Palestine was recovered, it should be retained by the Christians. Philip the Fair and Boniface were in high dispute respecting the limits of ecclesiastical and royal jurisdiction; and therefore the project, though warmly patronized by the Pope, proved abortive. In the interim, the tide of victory flowed in favour of the Egyptians. Cazan died about the year 1303, just when he had summoned to his side the Christian princes of Cyprus and Armenia, and was about to attack the Mamlukes. I cannot find any mention in Haithon or Abulfeda of the common story, that during the reign of Cazan the Hospitallers and other knights landed on the shores of Palestine, and marched to and occupied Jerusalem for a short time.

CHAP. VII.

of the miseries it had occasioned, or think that war is nothing but homicide and robbery. It was not that people were less military or less superstitious than before, that they could not be stimulated to new efforts, for arms were as much the delight and occupation of Europe in the fourteenth century, as they had been in the twelfth; and two ages had thickened rather than removed the cloud of corruption which enveloped the pure form of religion. But the idea of the impossibility of ultimate success had long been gradually and silently stealing over Europe; and the world was weary of consuming its blood and treasure in the pursuit of barren honour. The great Crusade in Egypt, in the year 1218, was almost the last occasion when barons and knights, as individuals, led their vassals to the holy war. Great efforts indeed were often made by sovereigns; but there were few of those popular expeditions to Palestine, which distinguished the first century and a half of the Crusades. At the time when the loss of the holy land became known in Europe, the people had not recovered from the astonishment and terror with which the victories of Zinghis Khan and his successors had filled the west. Part of Russia, the whole of Poland, Silesia, Moravia, Hungary, and all the countries to the eastward of the Adriatic Sea, fell a prey to barbaric desolation.

Several

Several of the Popes attempted in vain to soften the ferocity of these new foes; but the papal legates were dismissed with the tremendous command for Rome herself to submit her neck to the Mogul yoke. The western world knew indeed that most of the Tartars were pagans; and although some sanguine spirits conceived the hope of their powerful union with the Christians against the Muselmans, yet the circumstance of their appearance in Europe as conquerors, created a general dread of foreign nations; and as the Saracenian states, as well as some Christian ones, floated into the abyss, the people dreaded the new enemies whom they should have to encounter in their transmarine expeditions. The impracticability of preserving a Latin dominion in that city in Palestine which was as dear to the Muselmans as to the Christians, would have had more influence over the latter, if they had been less devoutly fond of pilgrimages,* and if veneration for religious places had

* Indeed after the first Crusade pilgrimages encreased. They were undertaken for purposes of penitence and devotion. The church of St. James in Gallicia, and the tombs of the apostles in Rome, were favourite objects as well as Jerusalem. At the close of the thirteenth century, the festival of the jubilee was instituted, and hundreds of thousands of persons repaired to Rome for the purpose of receiving a general indemnity for past offences.

CHAP. VII. had been softened into respectful regard. The idea was also opposed by some of the best feelings of the heart. The connexions of kindred and country bound Syria to Europe; and the knights of the west acknowledged the claims which their relations in the holy land urged upon them for succour. By marriage and descent too, the rights to property in the Asiatic Latin kingdom were often enjoyed by Europeans; and in many respects Palestine resembled a colony of Europe. The continuance of Crusades was therefore a natural circumstance. Hope of success would soon have died away, the healing influence of time would have removed the moral epidemic, if repeated and unsuccessful efforts had been made for the redemption of the holy land. But a fanatical ambition was fostered by partial success; and when Jerusalem flourished as a Christian city, the pride of possession became the new and master spring of action; and honour called for the preservation of sanguinary conquests!

It was the policy of the church of Rome to encourage the spirit of crusading, because they who skilfully administer to public prejudices, become in time masters of the people. In unenlightened days, ecclesiastical influence ended in spiritual tyranny. Until the time of Innocent III.

III, the Popes pursued this clear road to power; but, as we have already seen, that aspiring prelate taxed the clergy immediately, and the people indirectly, on pretence of defending Palestine, and, from that moment papal influence began to decline. The money enriched the coffers of St. Peter; the world was indignant at this misapplication of its contributions: and as levies were made at the calls of the wishes and wants of the pontiffs, and not always at the times when the cord of sympathy was strung, the people, both clergy and laity, grew weary of the occasion and the pretence of taxation. On another part of the subject, too, the avarice of the Popes broke the spirit of crusading. Among the encouragements to the first sacred war was the decree of the council of Clermont, that a journey to the holy land should be as efficacious to the spiritual health of a pilgrim as all the penances which the church could enjoin: and we have the evidence of so late a writer as Villehardouin,* the great historian of the fifth Crusade, that the promise of this indulgence had, even in his days, considerable influence. But the rapacious clergy thought that that which was granted could be sold, and that money as well as travelling might be taken in exchange for

* See page 97, ante.

CHAP. VII. for remission of canonical penances. The prelates began this scandalous traffic, but it was soon snatched from their hands by the Popes; and the successors of St. Peter made the indulgences of higher value than the humble bishops could pretend to do, by including the remission of punishments in a future world in the pardons which they sold. While the Popes levied taxes on pretence of succouring the holy land, it was their policy to encourage the fashion of crusading: but their avarice was also tempted by the profitable sale of indulgences, a traffic which was at once the cause and the effect of the decline of the holy wars.* Indulgences could be obtained

* The Christians in the holy land frequently complained against the Popes for granting indulgences for wars with the Germans and French. They said that the only cross which his Holiness regarded was the one on the French coin, "Le Pope prodigue des indulgences à ceux qui s'arment "contre les Allemands. Ses légats montrent parmi nous "leur extrême convoitise; nos croix cédent aux croix "empreintes sur les tournois, et l'on échange la sainte "croisade contre la guerre de Lombardie; j'aurai donc le "courage de dire de nos légats qu'ils vendent Dieu, et "qu'ils vendent les indulgences pour de coupables richesses." Le Chevalier du Temple, cited in Raynouard, Choix des Poésies Originales des Troubadours, vol. ii. p. 75. Introd.

obtained on easier terms than by making long and perilous journeys to Palestine. CHAP. VII.

Another great cause of ruin to the Crusades had its birth at Rome. Through the whole of the thirteenth century the Popes frequently armed the people of the west, both against heretics and against the political enemies of the papal see: and in every one of these cases, the privileges of Crusaders were granted to orthodox warriors. Clement IV. went one step further; for, in the course of the disputes between Charles of Anjou and Manfred for the throne of the two Sicilies, the Pope actually diverted from their religious purpose to his own secular objects, thousands of pilgrims who had been crossed. It is needless to dilate upon the actual injury to Palestine, and the scandal and ridicule which were cast on holy wars, when the soldiers of the cross became the regular army of the court of Rome.

Freedom from debt and taxes, and other general privileges of Christian warriors, had but little influence in keeping alive the sacred flame. The exemption from taxes was seldom regarded by the civil authorities, and was never permitted to be extended to levies on the land. For crimes, and also for questions relating to landed property,

CHAP. VII. property, people might be impleaded in secular courts.*

Last appearances of the crusading spirit.

Though Europe in general felt that in the fall of Acre all was lost, yet despair did not immediately complete its triumph, for chivalry and policy sometimes endeavoured to revive the religious spark. If Pope John XXII. had not been too open in the display of his avarice, and too prodigal in the commutation of vows for money, the knights of Germany would once more have fought under the glorious ensign of the cross.† A threatened invasion from England (A. D. 1328) deterred Philip de Valois from leaving his country ‡ for Palestine, and a large

* The property of a Crusader was vested in the church during his absence. The claims of his creditors were suspended. As this was a subject of inconvenience, people found it necessary, or were compelled, to resign all crusading privileges. This renunciation appears in charters dated in 1272, but it was probably of earlier use.

† Baluzii, Vitæ Pont. Avig. I. 15, 594. II. 552.

‡ Some successes of the Turks upon the Christians in Armenia filled all Europe with alarm. Philip, king of France and the king of Arragon were at Rome; the Pope preached before them, and exhorted them to put on the cross against the Saracens. His eloquence prevailed, and various other potentates then at Rome for the celebration of Easter, were moved also by the call to devotion and valour. The preparations of the French king were more extensive than those

large body of Crusaders was dispersed when (A. D. 1364) John the Good of France died, on whom the Pope intended to have conferred the title of commander of the new Crusaders.* The politic Henry IV. † of England wished to "busy giddy minds with foreign quarrels," in order to divert his people from looking too nearly into his state, and to retain their newly sworn allegiance. Both his maritime and military preparations were considerable; but the hand of nature stopped him, before he could attempt to commence his new religious career.‡ CHAP. VII. Henry IV. of England.

 His

those of any of his predecessors in the holy wars. The maritime towns in the south of France equipped a navy, and three years' provisions were collected for forty thousand soldiers. Philip negotiated with Hungary, Venice, and Genoa for the safe conduct of the pilgrims, whose number, it is said, was three hundred thousand. English politics, however, rendered the design abortive. Froissart, vol. 1 ch. 26 and 27.

* Baluzius, passim.

† Besides Henry IV. when young, had endeavoured to implant Christianity in Lithuania vi et armis. After his accession to the English throne, he gained the friendship of the clergy by aiding them in putting down the followers of Wickliff. He prudently united himself to the papal see, and naturally thought of Crusades.

‡ Holingshed (vol. 2. part 1. p. 529, &c.) does not seem to credit Fabian's story that Henry, finding himself in the Jerusalem chamber, exclaimed, "Praise be given to God, "for

CHAP. VII. Henry V.

His son Henry V. pursuing his father's principles, though not his details of policy, took advantage of the civil discords of France, and the peers of England "wasted the memory of former days" in the vain attempt of endeavouring to subjugate a rival nation. If length of life, and national peace, had been allotted to Harry Monmouth, it is more than probable that he would have "commenced new broils in "strands afar remote." In his last moments he declared it to be a Christian duty to build the walls of Jerusalem, and avowed the long concealed purpose of his breast to have led an army to Palestine, if he had lived in times of political tranquillity.*

Such

"for now I know I shall die here in this chamber, accord-
"ing to the prophecy of me declared that I should depart
"this life in Jerusalem." A story of this description had been flying about the world, and was occasionally applied to public characters. Pope Silvester II. had been warned that he should not die till he had celebrated mass at Jerusalem. The Pope mistook this for the city so called, unwittingly celebrated mass at Rome, in a church named Jerusalem, and being deceived by the equivocation of the name, met a sudden and wretched end. Harris' Philological Inquiries, part 3. ch. 8.

* Monstrelet, vol. 5. p. 371. 8vo. Johnes' edit. Henry V. acted like his father respecting the clergy. As he had no objection to broil or roast the Lollards, he could not have been averse from murdering the Saracens.

CHAP. VII.

Such were the last appearances of that martial phrenzy which so long agitated Europe: and here the history of the holy wars would naturally close, if curiosity did not suggest an enquiry into some of those military and religious orders which arose from the spirit of pilgrimages and crusades, and whose existence forms one of the most prominent characteristics of the middle ages. The knights of the Teutonic order were fixed in their conquest of Prussia, some years before the loss of the holy land. Their love of war was not extinguished: they carried both the sword and the Gospel into Pomerania; and the eastern part of that country was definitively ceded to the order by a treaty of peace in the year 1343. The town of Dantzic, the capital of the new conquest, was considerably aggrandised under the dominion of the knights, and became one of the principal places of commerce on the Baltic. Pressed forward again by religion and ambition, they made war on the infidel Lithuanians,* but it was not till the begin-

Fate of the military orders.

Teutonic knights.

 ning

* It was less difficult to travel into the north of Germany than to cross the seas to Palestine; the idolaters too were not so invincible as the Turks. When the military men of Europe wanted employment, they joined their arms to those of the Teutonic knights. Chaucer describes his knight as having gained renown in Pruce (Prussia) in Lettawe (Lithunnia)

CHAP. VII. ning of the fifteenth century, and after rivers of blood had flowed, that the Pagans lost their independence, and relinquished their national superstition. But the oppressive government of the knights; their intestine divisions; and their heavy imposts, the unhappy result of wars continually reviving, encouraged the nobility of Prussia and Pomerania to confederate, and to seek the protection of the kings of Poland. The torch of war was rekindled, the knights were defeated, and by the peace of Thorn in 1466 all Pomerania, and indeed all the country which is generally called Polish Prussia, was ceded to Poland. The order was allowed to preserve the west of Prussia by the tenure of feudal service to the kings of Poland. The idea of

thuania) and in Ruce (Russia). Prologue to the Canterbury Tales. v. 52—55.

Full worthy was he in his lordes werre.
And therto had he ridden, no man ferre,
As well in Christendom as in hethenesse.
And ever honoured for his worthinesse.
At Alisandre he was whan it was wonne,
Ful often time he hadde the bord begonne*
Aboven alle nations in Pruce.
In Lettowe hadde he reysed † and in Ruce,
No Christen man so oft of his degree.

* He had been placed at the head of the table on account of his great merit.

† Made a military expedition.

of subjection was odious to high-minded cava- CHAP. VII.
liers, and at the commencement of the sixteenth century the grand master, Albert of Brandenburg, asserted in the field the independence of his order. The equality of the two powers was manifested by a suspension of arms upon liberal conditions, but religion changed the face of politics, the sworn foe of infidelity listened to and adopted the doctrines of Luther, tore himself from his order, and agreed to live in perpetual friendship with the king of Poland, by a treaty concluded with him at Cracovia, the 8th of April, 1525. The bold avowals of liberty and independence were subdued by the offer of an hereditary crown, and Albert of Brandenburg accepted Teutonic Prussia from his uncle Sigismond I. king of Poland, on those conditions of fealty which he had before pretended his honour could never submit to. The Teutonic knights thus lost Prussia; their name appears on few occasions in the history of Europe, and the order became only a "cheap defence of nations."*

* L'Art de vérifier les Dates, vol. 3. p. 538. &c. Koch, Tableau des Révolutions de l'Europe, vol. 1. 203, 286, 410—413. vol. 2. 139, &c. Les Polonois (M. Koch judiciously observes) en se débarrassant de l'ordre Teutonique qui leur avoit fait ombrage, et en lui substituant la maison de Brandebourg, ne croyoient pas se donner un voisin encore plus dangereux, qui conspireroit un jour la ruine et anéantissement de la Pologne. Vol. 2. p. 141.

CHAP. VII.

Knights of St. Lazarus.

On the ruin of the Christian cause in Palestine the hospital of St. Lazarus was destroyed. Various Christian princes had enriched the order; but as St. Louis and his successors were its greatest and most efficient friends, the seat of its power was in France. In the course of time the disease of leprosy * became less common, and the cavaliers of St. Lazarus relaxed the severity of their institutions. Pope Innocent VIII. in the year 1490 endeavoured to suppress the order. In Italy perhaps he succeeded, but not in any other country; and the order subsisted in different degrees of power till the pontificates of Leo X. and Pius IV. who restored to it all its
1573. privileges. In the days of Gregory XV. the Italian part of the order was joined to the new order of St. Maurice, and the duke of Savoy was appointed its head. The bull was resisted by the knights of France, and till the reign of Henry IV. they were independent, and elected their own grand masters. But that monarch created

* It is generally said that leprosy was introduced into Europe by the Crusaders on their return from the holy land. This is incorrect: the disease was known much earlier, for in the year 757, at a council held at Compiegne, leprosy was allowed as a sufficient cause to dissolve a marriage. Of the fact that leprosy existed in the west long before the æra of the holy wars there are several proofs in Muratori, Antiquitates Italiæ, Med. Ævi. Diss. 16. vol. 1. p. 906–908.

created a new institution called the order of the Holy Virgin of Mount Carmel, and for the purpose of investing it with dignity he destroyed the unity of the knights of St. Lazarus. All their wealth and their titles were added to the new society, and their ancient ordinances were revoked.* CHAP. VII. 1608.

As war with the infidels was the great duty and passion of the military orders, and as their glory was closely involved with the fate of Palestine, their martial energies were not quickly damped by the apparent success of their foes.† After the loss of Acre, the knights of St. John and the Temple, from every preceptory and commandery in Europe, flocked to Cyprus, impatient for glory and revenge. Bulls for a new crusade were issued from Rome by pope Nicholas IV. but Europe would not respond to the wishes of the papal court. The military friars soon quitted their settlements in Cyprus, for the king denied them those privileges which they enjoyed in Knights of St. John. 1292.

* Toussaint, Mém. de l'ordre Notre Dame de Mont Carmel, &c. and Helyot Hist. des Ordres, vol. 1. chap. 32 and 54.

† "What though the field be lost?
"All is not lost; the unconquerable will
"And study of revenge, immortal hate,
"And courage never to submit or yield."

CHAP. VII. in other countries. The grand master of the Hospitallers gained the friendship and the purse of pope Clement V. and drew a flattering picture of Christian prosperity, if the cavaliers of St. John could set up their banners in some island in the Mediterranean. Rhodes was fixed upon. Fifteen years subsequently to the loss of Acre, a new crusade was published, and the volunteers were invited to repair to Brundisium. The king of Sicily and the republic of Genoa furnished transports. The grand master headed the army, but it was not until after they had sailed, that the Crusaders knew the object of the armament. Rhodes was at that time in the power, partly of the Greeks and partly of the Saracens. The soldiers landed, many battles were fought, and the army of the invaders was at last reduced to the military friars. Their undaunted chief borrowed money from the Italian bankers, hired new soldiers, recommenced his attacks, and the whole island submitted to his authority. The subsequent history of the knights of St. John is interwoven with the general history of Europe, and is not within the scope of the present work.*

Aug. 1310.

While

* It may, however, be interesting to notice the fate of the order in England. The knights were of high consequence, for in the time of Edward IV. the prior was the first lay baron,

While the military friars were planning the acquisition of an equivalent to their loss in Palestine, CHAP. VII. The Templars.

baron, and had a seat in parliament. By statute 32 Henry VIII. ch. xxiv. the order, both in England and Ireland, was dissolved, on the alleged reason, that the knights adhered to a foreign jurisdiction. A yearly pension of one thousand pounds was settled on Sir William Weston, the prior. Seventeen knights had annuities, varying from two hundred to thirty pounds each, and some of the goods and chattels of the priories. Ten novices had also ten pounds a-year each. The amount of the pensions was two thousand eight hundred and seventy pounds, nearly the annual value of the estates. The pensions were said to be handsome, on account of the high birth and honourable breeding of the knights. The reader must be surprised at the small number of the knights in England; and as the Hospitalians had been enriched by the property of the Red-cross knights, their estates were not surprisingly large. The prior died on the very day (7th May, 1540) of the dissolution of the order. "His hospital," says Fuller, "and earthly tabernacle were buried together, "and gold, though a great cordial, could not cure a broken "heart." The monastery at Bucklands was dissolved, and the prioress received from the king a gratuity of twenty-five pounds and the grant of a life annuity of fifty pounds. Fuller, Church History, p. 344, 345. Willis's History of the Mitred Abbies, vol. ii. p. 129, 134. Weaver, Fun. Mon. p. 431. Queen Mary restored the order, and made Sir Thomas Tresham lord prior, in return for some important services which he had rendered to her. Queen Elizabeth, however, completely and finally suppressed the society. Stow's London, edit. 1720, book iv. p. 62, 63. Bridges' History of Northamptonshire, vol. ii. p. 69.

CHAP. VII. lestine, most of the Red-cross knights gradually left Cyprus, returned to their different commanderies, and lived in security and indolence. But circumstances soon made the Templars repent that they had not, like the Hospitallers, attempted a renewal of hostilities with the infidels. Philip the Fair, king of France, acquainted Pope Clement the Fifth, that the order of the Knights Templars had been accused of heresy and various other crimes against religion and morals. Some members* had charged their fraternity with the different abominations of treachery, murder, idolatry, and Islamism. The Pope, in reply, correctly said, that these charges were incredible and unheard of.† But, at length, overawed

* Accounts vary respecting the names and number of the knights who made the accusation. It is agreed, however, on all hands, that the men who were so zealous in the cause of virtue were themselves deeply criminal. Baluzius, Vitæ Pontif. Avig. tom. i. p. 99. Villani, Storie, lib. 3. cap. 92. p. 429.

† Ad credendum quæ tunc dicebantur, cum quasi *Incredibilia* et *Impossibilia* viderentur, nostrum animum vix potuimus applicare, quia tamen plura incredibilia et INAUDITA, &c. Lettre de CLEMENT V. à PHILIPPE-le-Bel, de 9 kal. de sept. an. 2 de son Pontificat. This extract I have made from a work by M. Raynouard, which I have found of much use in this part of my subject. The title of the work is, "Monumens Historiques relatifs à la condamnation des Chevaliers du Temple et l'abolition de leur ordre. Paris, 1813."

overawed by the power, or seduced by the artifices, of Philip, his Holiness assented to the necessity of an enquiry, and added, that if for their crimes the Templars should be punished, their estates must be applied to the religious purpose of succouring the holy land, and should not be converted to any secular object. Sanctioned then by the church, in his apparent wish for the execution of justice, Philip the Fair took the bold step of imprisoning all the Knights Templars whom his officers could discover in France, and of sequestering their property. The Pope was indignant that any authority, save that of Rome, should interfere with a military order, which was out of royal, or ordinary episcopal, jurisdiction; but some signs of submission on the part of Philip restored harmony between the spiritual and temporal powers. The church was the nominal guardian of the sequestered estates; but most of the actual administrators

Oct. 1307. Imprisonment of the Templars in France.

1813. Of M. Raynouard's Tragedy of (the condemnation of) the Templars, I can say nothing in praise. The plot is meagre and uninteresting. Long speeches of middling poetry will not compensate for the want of delineation of character. Without incident and situation, there can be no dramatic effect, and, consequently, no display of the passions. The tragedy was acted with applause some years ago at Paris. For an analysis, and a critical notice of it, see the Edinburgh Review, vol. ix. article 14.

CHAP. VII.

ministrators were subjects of the king. Clement then circulated a bull throughout Christendom, by which instrument of papal authority, nuncios and the resident clergy were commanded to enquire into the conduct of the knights. His Holiness says, that, pressed by public clamour, and by the declarations of the king, the barons, the clergy, and laity of France, he* had examined seventy-two members of the order, and had found them all guilty, though in various degrees, of irreligion and immorality. The Pope also threatened with excommunication every person that harboured, or gave counsel or money to, the knights.† The Pope's commissioners at Paris summoned before them such of the members of the order as were in the city, and promised life, liberty, and fortune to those who would avow the crimes imputed to their society. The inquisitors even presented forged letters of the grand master, by which they were required

Proceedings against the Templars at Paris.

* The examinations were not made by the Pope himself, but by his cardinals and other officers.

† Nos enim omnes et singulos, cujuscunque præeminentiæ sint, dignitatis, ordinis, conditionis, aut status, etiam si pontificali præfulgeant dignitate, qui supra dictis Templariis, vel eorum alicui, scienter, *publice, vel occulte, præstabunt, auxilium, consilium, vel favorem, &c, Excommunicationis sententia innodamus.* Datum Tolosæ 3 Kal. Januarii Pontif. nostri anno quarto.

required to make the avowal. Such of the knights as yielded to blandishments and threats were pardoned, but the torture was applied to those who denied the charges, and thirty-six knights in Paris heroically braved the horrors of the rack, and maintained the innocence of the order, till death closed their sufferings and their virtue. Some survived the torture, and they were cast into prison and exposed to the most extreme miseries of hunger and thirst. Others confessed in the midst of corporeal agony,* and afterwards recanted their confessions. The same scenes were acted in different parts of France. These proceedings were only preliminary to the decision which the commissioners were to make upon the general subject of the innocency or guilt of the French part of the order. The assembly met at Paris. James de Molai, the grand master of the society, was dragged from the prison into which the French king had thrown him, and was repeatedly im-

portuned

* The cool and deliberate tormentors not only took an account of the words which fell from the knight when tormented, but even noted down their tears and their sighs. "Che il notario scrive non solamente tutte le riposte del "reo, ma anco tutti i ragionamenti e moti che farà e tutte "le parole che egli proferirà né tormenti, anzi *tutti i suspiri* "*tutti le grida, tutti i lamenti e la lagrime* che manderà." *Il sacro Arsenale*, cited in Raynouard, p. 33, note.

CHAP. VII. portuned to confess the sins of himself and his brethren. He requested the consultory assistance of advocates; for he said that he was an illiterate knight, and more skilled in war than in forensic subtlety. But the court sternly denied his request, because in charges of heresy the accused persons were always acquitted or condemned without the aid of counsel. De Molai then defended his order from the general accusations of irreligion. He declared, that thrice a week they gave alms, and that no people had shed more blood than they had shed for the defence of Christianity. The commissioners replied, that, without faith, all their good works and valour were useless.* The grand master rejoined that he had faith, and accordingly repeated the Roman catholic creed with firmness and energy. The court declared that he had confessed various crimes, and they read to him a paper, purporting to be the details of his examination,

* "He hated all good works and virtuous deeds,
"And him no less that any like did use
"And, who with gracious bread the hungry feeds,
"His alms, *for want of faith*, he doth accuse."

"Deluded people," as a prelate of the Church of England has said, "that do not consider, that the greatest heresy in "the world, is a wicked life; and that God will sooner for-"give a man an hundred defects of his understanding, than "one fault of his will."

mination, as taken before the cardinals and legate of the Pope, at Chinon.* But Molai most vehemently denied the accuracy of the document.† Some of his brother knights were examined. They all bore testimony to the virtue of the order, and appealed to the dying cries of their tortured friends, as witnesses to the truth. Nine hundred knights presented themselves to the commissioners, and declared their intention and ability to defend the society. This avowal compelled the commissioners to make distinct and formal charges against the order. The Knights Templars then were accused of renouncing, at the time of their matriculation, God, Jesus Christ, the Virgin, and all the saints. It was said, that the brethren used often to spit and trample on the cross, in proof of their contempt of Christ, who was crucified for his own crimes and not for the sins of the world. Out of their disdain of God and his Son, they adored

CHAP. VII.

* It is singular that the Pope did not personally examine the grand master, and the other great officers of the order, who were all at Chinon, a place not far distant from Poitiers, the residence of the Pope. Clement gave out that some were ill, and could not travel. He might surely have examined the others.

† There is no doubt, however, from the declarations of the grand master on the scaffold at Paris, that some confessions of guilt had been extorted from him.

CHAP. VII. adored a cat,* and certain wooden and golden idols.† The master could absolve brethren from sins. All those matters were agreeable to the statutes of the order; they were in old and general usage; and there was no other mode of reception than the performance of certain acts, many of which were opposite to nature, as well as contrary to law. To these charges the Templars returned a general and firm denial; and, in consciousness of innocence, called for an acquittal, except the accusations could be substantiated. In violation of the benign forbearance of legal inquisition, the knights had been seized like sheep intended for the slaughter; their property taken from them; and, without any respect for their rank or station in the world, they had been cast into loathsome dungeons. As

* This feline worship is a curious circumstance. The accusers of the Templars were as refined in their cruelty as the enemies of the Cathari; who, wishing to prove criminality by etymology, said that those heretics took their name; "a "catto, quia osculuntur posteriora catti; in cujus specie, "ut aiunt appareret iis Lucifer." Alanus de Insulis, p. 146. Paris, 1612.

† None of these idols were ever found. How sensible is the remark of Bayle:—S'ils (les Templiers) étaient assez impies pour renoncer à la religion Chrétienne qui était celle de leur naissance, comment auraient-ils pu se confier à une idole? Bayle, Nouvelles de la Rép. des Lettres, Oeuvres Diverses, vol. i. p. 646. See further, note S.

As if the existence of truth and the capacity of preserving it were necessarily united, they had been tortured, and the strength of each man's nerves discovered. On the assurance that the king would destroy the order, whether the result of the examinations were favourable or hostile to its continuance, many knights had yielded to pain and hopelessness, stayed the hand of the executioner, confessed every crime, and, upon their confessing of which, royal pardon and protection were proffered. The prisoners had been deprived of the habits of the order; spiritual succours were denied to such brethren as were ill, and no funeral solemnities graced the burial of the dead. All these facts were so public and notorious, that it was impossible to controvert or palliate them. The order of the knights Templars was eminent for its virtue and its discipline: and when the chances of war had thrown any of them into the hands of the Muselman foe, and the deplorable choice was offered of apostacy or death, where could an instance be found of want of religious heroism? and would they have been martyrs for Christianity, had they not believed in Christ?—The commissioners continued their violation of the substantial forms of justice; they relied for the truth of the charges upon the deposition of those who had been tortured, or bribed into confession: CHAP. VII.

CHAP. VII. and some of the recreant knights basely persisted in their asseverations. But the court was almost ashamed into decency when a cavalier, Humbert du Puy was his name, instead of bending before pretended justice, passionately declared that he had been thrice tortured, and for thirty-six weeks had been confined in a damp and putrid tower, and supported on bread and water alone. The court, however, soon resumed its contempt of virtue and equity. It condemned to perpetual imprisonment those from whom no confession of guilt had been extorted. But such as had retracted their forced avowals were declared to be relapsed heretics;* they were delivered over to the secular power, and condemned to the fire. The number in the last-mentioned class of the proscribed was fifty-four. All the historians who have spoken of the event, whatever opinion they might have entertained on the general question, friends or enemies, natives or strangers, have unanimously attested the virtuous courage, the noble intrepidity, and the religious resignation, which these martyrs of heroism displayed. Arrived at the place of punishment,

May 11, 1310.

* Far different was the conduct of the council of Ravenna. In that assembly it was declared, that it was just to receive the retractations of such avowals as had been extorted by the apprehension of the pain of the rack.

ment, they beheld with firmness and placidity the piles of wood, and the torches already lighted in the hands of the executioners. In vain a messenger of the king promised pardon and liberty to those who did not persist in their retractations; in vain their surrounding friends endeavoured to touch their hearts by prayers and tears. The virtues of constancy, resignation, and love of truth, engrossed them wholly. Invoking God, the Virgin, and all the saints, they sung the hymn of death; triumphing over the most cruel tortures, they believed themselves already in the Heavens, and died in the midst of their songs.—We may pass over the condemnation of the Templars in other parts of France, for the events were similar to those which occurred at Paris. CHAP. VII.

Process against the Templars in England.

In no nation was there such a variety of circumstances attending the proscription as in England; and it is therefore our own country that next claims our attention, in respect of the melancholy fate of the red cross knights. As soon as Philip the Fair had matured his scheme of destruction, he sent ambassadors to his son-in-law Edward II. for the purpose of stimulating him to similar proceedings. The English monarch and his council expressed the strongest surprise at the charges made against the Tem-

CHAP. VII. plars, and declared their intention of investigating their truth. So high was the merit of the cavaliers in the opinion of the English court,* Dec. 1307. that, two months after this declaration, Edward sent letters to the kings of Portugal, Castile, and Arragon, in which he urged his brother sovereigns not to credit the accusations which had been heaped upon the Templars. He wrote also to the Pope, and implored the favour of the papal see in behalf of an injured and calumniated body of men.† But the feeble mind of Edward was soon won by French artifice; and, by royal command, the sheriffs of the different counties of England and Wales seized the estates, and imprisoned the persons of the Templars. Some of the knights escaped the first search; but the diligence of the court was equal to its malignity; and the royal officers were told that there were many Templars in the country disguised in secular garments; and that they were men who had committed the crime

* Rymer, vol. ii. p. 10, 19, 20, 24, new edit.

† No religious order was so eminent in England as that of the Templars. Brother Almeric was one of those Englishmen who gained Magna Charta. The kings of England kept much of their treasure in the Temple, in London. Henry II. and queen Eleanor desired to be buried in that place. Henry III. was educated there. M. Paris and Spelman, cited in Du Cange, in verbo Templum.

crime of apostacy, to the manifest danger of their souls. The cavaliers* were more than a year and an half in prison before their cause was brought under judicial cognizance. At the end of that time a papal bull was received in England; and the archbishop of Canterbury appointed courts at London, York, and Lincoln, for the trial of the Templars. The charges were the same in substance as those which had been preferred against the order in France. Forty-seven of the knights who had been incarcerated in the Tower were examined upon oath before the bishop of London, some inferior clergy, and the representatives of the Pope. They all denied the crimes of which they were charged. William de la Moore, the grand prior of England, was as earnest as De Molai had been in defence of his order. It appeared that every knight, at his entrance into the society, took the three religious oaths of chastity, poverty, and submission. A veil of secresy was cast over the proceedings, for it was contrary to the statutes that strangers should witness the reception

CHAP. VII.

Oct. 1309.

Nov. 1309. July 1311.

* The number of Templars imprisoned in England, Scotland, and Ireland, was about two hundred and fifty. Ferrati of Vicenza, a writer of the fourteenth century, says, that there were fifteen thousand knights all over Christendom at the time of the dissolution of the order. Ferrati Vincentini, in Muratori, Scrip. Rer. Ital. vol. ii. p. 1018.

CHAP. VII.

tion of a member.* Seventeen lay and ecclesiastical individuals were then summoned to court, and their opinions were asked whether the Templars were religious people, and whether these secret meetings were held from a good or from a bad motive. The first witness thought that there must be evil in the affair, because the meetings were secret. Others candidly confessed ignorance, and bore strong testimony to the general good conduct of the knights. The remaining five witnesses avowed their ignorance of the principles and practice of the Templars.† Twenty-four new articles of charge, and an appendix of five more, were then framed against the knights. They were accused of burying in private, of having double methods of admission, of absolving excommunicated persons, and of relaxing canonical penances. All those things were

* The private associations of the primitive Christians had been the subject of much offence to the Pagans. As professors of a religion distinguished for charity, it ill became the accusers of the Templars to join criminality with secresy.

† Some time after this examination, and when the threat of ecclesiastical punishment made the knights recant their avowal of innocence, a great deal of hearsay evidence contradicted the statement in the text. Many people deposed, they had *heard* that the Templars adored images, denied the doctrines of the divinity of Christ, the atonement, &c.

were solemnly denied by the Templars; and it was thought that a complete acquittal must be pronounced. It was only on the subject of absolution that any impropriety in their conduct could justly be suspected. It was admitted that the master could absolve men who offended against the ceremonies of religion; but he did not pretend to pardon crimes. At the general chapter the grand preceptor declared, that those persons who had not confessed their sins, or had withdrawn any money from the Templars, could not partake of Heaven: but other offences, which could not be confessed for modesty's sake, or for fear of the law, he absolved according to the degree of his authority. There could not, however, have been much evil in this ceremony, for the knights acknowledged that this absolution was not perfect, because the church form was never used,—"I absolve thee in the name of "God the Father, God the Son, and God the "Holy Ghost."* Stephen de Stapelbrugge, a Templar, who long had avoided the officers of justice, was brought before the commissioners, and confessed in the fullest manner the truth of the charges contained in the papal bulls. Idols, however, were not worshipped in England. Another cavalier, Thomas de Thoroldeby, who

* A witness or two said this form was used.

CHAP. VII. had escaped from prison, was afterwards taken. He avowed the innocence of his order in the strongest terms, and declared that the reason of his having fled before was, that a certain abbot had held over him dreadful threats if he would not confess all manner of crimes. Two other Templars acknowledged the justice of the charges. Stephen de Stapelbrugge read in public a recantation of heresy; the clergy absolved him, and he was released from the penalties of excommunication. The consequences of clerical censures seem again to have terrified Thomas de Thoroldeby. He made an open avowal that he had spat upon the cross, and committed other offences. He then received absolution.

Four knights made a general confession of crimes, when they were told by the bishops of London, Winchester, and Chichester, that the Pope had authorized them to give a full pardon to those who acknowledged their iniquities; but that if they persisted in heresy, they should be considered and punished as heretics.* Thirteen

* Wilkins, Concilia, vol. ii. p. 390. The dread of the punishments attached to the crime of heresy, made all the knights recant their first professions of innocence. For some time the commissioners appear to have acted with impartiality;

teen newly admitted knights swore that they were not acquainted with the secrets of the order, but that they were prepared to renounce all the erroneous opinions with which it was possible the minds of men could be stained. This general renunciation was made before, and CHAP. VII.

lity; but they afterwards went with the current of papal and royal wishes. The first examination of the knights was not agreeable to the wishes of the Pope, and he, therefore, gently censured the king of England for having forbidden the use of torture. "Thus, the knights," he continued, "have refused to declare the truth. Oh! my dear son, "consider attentively and prudently, if such be consistent "with your honour and the safety of your kingdom." This advice of the Pope for the use of torture, is mentioned by M. Raynouard, on the authority of a manuscript in the Vatican. Hist. de la Condemnation des Templiers, p. 132, note. There is no reason to think, however, that the torture was used. There is not one expression in the report of the London commissioners which authorizes the supposition. That the threat of the punishment consequent on heresy was hung over them, and produced the effect, fully appears. The archbishop of York enquired of his clergy whether torture might be used, and mentions the fact (so grateful to Englishmen,) that torture was unknown in this country. "An sint supponendi quæstionibus et tormentis, licet hoc "in regno Angliæ nusquam visum fuerit vel auditum?" Hemingford, vol. i. p. 256. edit. Hearne. The archbishop adds, that there was no machine for torture in England; and he asks whether he shall send to foreign countries for one, in order that the prelates should not be chargeable with negligence.

CHAP. VII. and the men were absolved by, the archbishop of Canterbury and many of the dignified clergy. Thirty-two other knights and friars, who had on various occasions denied the truth of the charges, now offered general confessions, and abjured all heresies. Five men in the tower, too ill or too aged for removal, gladly made a full acknowledgment of vice and erroneous opinions, and were pardoned. This seems to have been the case with all the London knights. William de la Moore, the grand prior, was the only man whom no fear of imprisonment or dread of ecclesiastical punishment could induce to deny his first avowal of the innocence of the order. He was requested to make a general confession; but he replied, that he was not guilty of heresy, and would never abjure crimes which he had not committed.

In Ireland about thirty Templars, in Scotland only two, were confined and examined. In Lincoln the number somewhat exceeded twenty. There were twenty-three in York. The general charges of apostacy and idolatry were not proved in any case. The proceedings in the diocese of York are interesting. The archbishop assisted by the papal legates enquired into the matters directed by the bull. Some of the Templars confessed that the master and other officers had

had the power of absolution: others restricted that power to subjects relative to discipline. That the admission of a brother always took place in secret was a fact which was freely avowed. The archbishop wrote for the opinions of the learned theologians of his province whether those things were heretical and erroneous: and whether the torture might be applied to those who did not confess.* The result of this application for judicial and casuistical advice does not appear. The Pope, however, pressed his grace to come to a decision. The archbishop went to London, and on his return he told his clergy that two of the Templars had confessed before the archbishop of Canterbury all the charges heaped upon the order, and that the king of France had burnt seventy-two knights who had made similar avowals. The clergy of York were perplexed by their wish to obey the Pope, and the conviction that the Templars were not guilty, or at least that their offences had been grossly exaggerated. However, all the knights made a general confession of the offence of heresy, and avowed they could not cleanse themselves from the crimes mentioned in the bull. The clergy pardoned them, and received them again into the bosom of the church. They were then sent into CHAP. VII.

* See p. 313, ante, note.

CHAP. VII. into confinement in various monasteries until the decision of a general council should be declared.*

In Germany. The fate of the Templars in other parts of the world remains to be told. In Germany the innocence of the order was proved before the archbishops of Mayence and Treves at councils held in their respective dioceses.

In Italy. In Italy the Pope had a little more success. Several Templars at Florence confessed every species of abomination. One witness, however, solemnly protested

* The best and most full account of the condemnation of the Templars in England is contained in the second volume of Wilkins's Concilia, p. 329—401. See likewise Hemingford, already quoted, Rymer, vol. 2. p. 90, 93, 94, 100. Stubbs, apud X. Script. col. 1740. Knyghton, col. 2494, 2531. Walsingham (whom Stow merely translates) says that the Templars in London, saving one or two of them, denied the charges: notwithstanding all did confess that they could not purge themselves, and therefore were condemned to perpetual penance in several monasteries, where they behaved very well. Walsingham, p. 99. Stow, p. 215. The reasons of their inability to make this canonical purgation have been explained in the text. Holinshed says, "the Templars confessed the form, but not the fact of the "crimes, laid to their charge, except two or three ribalds "that were among them: but because they could not clear "themselves they were adjudged unto perpetual penance "within certain monasteries." Holinshed, vol. 2. p. 320. edit. 1587.

protested that many Templars had made those avowals out of fear of the torture. He added, "if the errors imputed to us had in reality existed, I should have quitted the order, and made my denunciation to the prelates and inquisitors; I would have preferred to have worked for my bread rather than remain with such people; in short, I would have chosen death, because the safety of my soul is the first object of my regard." One of those who bore testimony at Viterbo was so badly skilled in his story that he deposed, the prior had compelled him to adore an idol, and had said to him, "Pray to this *idol* for health:" as if the prior would have confessed the imposition, and have told his proselyte to adore an object confessedly not capable of receiving adoration. Much blood was shed in Lombardy, Tuscany, Sicily, Naples, and Provence,* whenever the knights would not be guilty of self-condemnation. In those parts of Spain where the conduct of the Templars was inquired into the result was an acquittal. Their military front was powerful, and the ministers of papal vengeance did not dare to apply the torture. CHAP. VII.

Four years after the first seizure of the Templars in France a council was held at Vienne in October, 1311. Council at Vienne.

* Nostrodamus, Chron. de Provence, p. 325, &c.

CHAP. VII. in Dauphiny for the purpose of making some general decision on the case of the order. The Pope headed three hundred bishops, and an untold number of inferior clergy. All men who desired to defend the order were promised security and freedom. Nine cavaliers presented themselves before the assembly in the character of representatives of one thousand five hundred of their brethren who were living at Lyons, and in the secret fastnesses of Savoy and Switzerland. Clement immediately violated his promise of protection, and threw the nine knights into prison. He then called upon the council for its opinion, whether in consequence of the confessions of the Templars the society ought not to be dissolved? With the disgraceful exception of one Italian prelate, and three French archbishops, the whole body of churchmen declared that so illustrious an order as that of the red cross knights ought not to be suppressed, until the grand master and the nine knights had been heard in its defence. The Pope disregarded the opinion of the majority; and tried in vain for six months to make a change. The king of France arrived at Vienne, and sanctioned by his presence the Pope declared that he should exercise the plenitude of papal authority. He accordingly dissolved the order provisionally, and

The order suppressed.

and not absolutely, and reserved to himself the disposition of the persons and estates of the Templars. This mode of dissolution was totally unprecedented. The Pope avows in his bull that all the informations against the Templars did not fully support the charges that had been made against the order, but that they only warranted a strong suspicion of guilt: and he could not therefore pronounce a definitive sentence. When the subject of the distribution of the knights Templars' estates was debated in the council, the Pope declared that they ought to be bestowed upon the Hospitallers, because the original purpose of the order was the subjugation of infidels, a purpose which the knights of Rhodes were earnestly pursuing. The friends of the French king declaimed against the danger to morals and religion of enriching the companions in arms of the Templars, and strongly endeavoured to prove the superior benefits to the Christian cause, which would result from the establishment of a new order. But the Pope promised to amend the principles and to reform the abuses of the military friars, and Philip was compelled to withdraw his opposition. CHAP. VII.

Confiscation of its estates.

The decree of confiscation was executed throughout Christendom. The Templars were robbed,

CHAP. VII. robbed, but the Hospitallers did not enjoy the whole of the plunder. Philip the Fair, and his successor Louis Hutin, retained nearly three hundred thousand livres for what they chose to term the expenses of the prosecution. The landed estates were slowly and unwillingly resigned, for the monarchs enjoyed the rents till the commissioners of the knights of Rhodes established their rights.* In Germany the Teutonic knights assisted the Hospitallers in plundering those who had formerly been their brethren in arms in Palestine. In Italy, and most of Spain, the decree of the Vienne council was faithfully executed. In Valentia, however, the knights of Calatrava were enriched, and in Arragon the order of the knights of our lady of Montesa was created in the place of the Templars, and supported by their wealth. The knights were destined to fight the Muselmans of Spain. The most wise and virtuous monarch of his time was Denis king of Portugal. He preserved the order of the red cross knights, and made only the sacrifice to the decrees of the church by changing their title from the soldiers of

* It was not until the year 1317, and until the reign of Philip le Long, that the Hospitallers completely discharged the French king from all their demands upon him as guardian of the estates of the Templars. Dupuy, p. 184.

of the Temple to that of the soldiers of Christ. Pope John XXII. was obliged to concede to this measure. In England the Templars were restored to liberty before the holding of the council at Vienne: but their estates were retained by the king's commissioners, and the rents were paid into the royal treasury. Edward II. confirmed the papal grant of the estates of the Templars to the Hospitallers; and recommended the new possessors to make the same pecuniary allowance to the knights as he had made them.* The regal ratification of the decree of the church was not, however, in all respects considered obligatory. Both before and after the passing of the royal word Edward gave to different laymen much of the forfeited property. Numbers of the nobility too as heirs of the original donors seized many of the Templars' estates. Indeed, so great was the injustice done to the Hospitallers, that Pope John XXII. censured both the clergy and laity, for their disobedience to the decree of the council at Vienne. Moved by the voice of the holy pontiff the parliament confirmed the decrees, but oppression still exerted some influence, and the Hospitallers were even obliged

CHAP. VII.

1322.

* Two shillings to the master, and four pence to each cavalier, were paid every day during the time when their estates were in royal custody.

CHAP. VII.

obliged to purchase of the king, or from laymen, the objects of his munificence, many of the estates of the Templars.*

Execution of the grand master.

The last circumstance which attended the fate of the Templars was the condemnation of the grand master, James de Molai. About a year after the termination of the council at Vienne, two cardinals as legates of the Pope, the archbishop of Sens, and some other French prelates, met at Paris, and sat in judgment upon the grand master, and upon Guy, brother of the prince of Dauphiny, and the two grand priors of France and Aquitain. There was no new trial, and no new examination. But on a public scaffold

* The earls of Lancaster and Pembroke, and the younger Spenser, successively had grants of the Temple in London: but in consequence of the events of death, rebellion and attainter, it reverted to the crown. In the reign of Edward III., the Hospitallers got full possession of the Temple, and demised it unto some common law professors that came from Thavies Inn, Holborn. The rebels in 1381 very much injured the church and buildings of the Temple. The lawyers divided themselves into two bodies,—those of the Inner Temple, and those of the Middle Temple: and held the mansion as tenants to the Hospitallers till the dissolution of that order of knights, 32 Henry VIII., and afterwards as tenants to the crown. James I. granted them the building in fee. Dugdale, Orig. Jurid. cap. 57. edit. 1671. Stow's London, book 3. p. 271.

scaffold, where a pile of wood was lighted by the ordinary executioner, the commissioners called upon the knights to confirm the acknowledgement of the immoralities and heresies which they had made to the Pope. The priors of France and Aquitain renewed their confession. But the virtuous James de Molai cried aloud that he had been guilty of the greatest crime in charging the Templars with vice. "I uttered, he continued, "all that the inquisitors wished, only for the pur- "pose of escaping the torments of the rack. But "I abhor the weakness which I then shewed. "Great as are the torments which are prepared "for me, I will endure them rather than purchase "a few years of life by persisting in falsehood."* Similar language was uttered by Guy; his declaration closed the proceedings, and the four knights were reconveyed to prison. On the same day James de Molai was burnt alive before a slow fire, on the very spot in Paris which has been adorned in modern times with a statue of Henry IV. With his dying lips he bore testimony to the virtue of the order; and his mental sufferings on account of his former want of firmness appeared to be greater than his mere corporeal pain. The brother of the prince of Dauphiny met with the same unhappy but honourable

CHAP. VII.

* Paulus Emilius, p. 174, edit. 1539.

CHAP. VII. nourable end as that of his friend James de Molai. The two priors seem to have died in prison.

Innocence of the Templars.

The charges against the Templars, of apostacy and idolatry, were so completely unsubstantiated, that the order must hold the same rank in the estimation of posterity as if those charges had never been made. The general character for virtue* of the red cross knights can be proved from the declarations of their enemies. The opinions of Pope Clement V. and Edward II. king of England, have been already quoted. The praise which Philip the Fair bestowed upon the order is equally decisive. In the year 1304, three years only before the proscription, the French king, in an act which accorded numerous privileges in favour of the Templars, explains in the following terms the reasons of his munificence: "The works "of piety and charity, the magnificent liberality "which

* Mariana writes very safely on the subject of the Templars. He says it is most probable they were not all innocent, nor were all of them guilty. The jesuit ought to have known that the crimes of a few or a great many individuals were not the alleged matters of offence. It was the whole body of knights, the practice of the chapters as sanctioned by the statutes of the order, which had passed the common measure of vice.

"which the holy order of the Temple has exercised in all times and in all places; and their noble courage, which ought again to be excited to the dangerous defence of the holy land, have determined us to spread our royal bounty over the order and its knights in our kingdom, and to give special marks of favour to an establishment for which we have a sincere predilection."*

Causes of the suppression of the order.

The causes of the suppression of the order of the Templars, the reasons which occasioned the arm of power to be raised against them, form an interesting subject of inquiry. The defenders of the Romish church, in sweet oblivion of the character of their own establishment, have accused the Templars of ambition; a passion which resulted from their wealth. But the course

* Trésor des Chartres, as cited in Raymond, p. 14, note. In praise of the Templars I must add, that Guiot, one of the Troubadours, who wrote in the thirteenth century, speaks in honourable terms of the Templars, although he is bitter and severe in his mention of all other religious orders.

Molt sont prodomme li Templier,
Là se rendent li chevalier
Qui ont le siecle asavoré
Et ont et véu et tot taste.

Bible, Guist, vers. 1706, cited in Roquefort, Glossaire de la Langue Romane, art. Temples.

CHAP. VII. course and object of this common feeling of human nature were not made matters of charge; neither are men to be condemned for supposed consequences of principles, or for passions which have not appeared in conduct.* The knights of St. John were more wealthy; and, on the principles we have mentioned, more ambitious than the Templars: but the military friars stood unimpeached, while the reins of indignation were poured on the red cross knights. The union of these two bodies had been a frequent subject of papal consideration; and the impracticability of the measure, not its impropriety, finally prevented its completion.† The severity of the discipline of the Templars was always objected to by the Hospitalians; and the sagacious members of both orders foretold that there would be perpetual dissensions if the rival and jealous knights attempted to live in social intercourse. The Templars were not accused by outraged public decency, by the complaints of an injured and

* Some writers have charged the Templars with pride, and have referred to a pointed sentence of Richard Cœur de Lion. See Bromton, apud x. Scrip. col. 1279. Knighton, however, makes the humble monarch charge both the Templars and the Hospitallers with the sin by which the angels fell. col. 2412.

† One of the last attempts at this union was made at Saltzburg in the year 1292.

and insulted world: but by the monster of his age,* Philip the Fair of France. No love of virtue could have influenced the king, for his own life was one continued scene of profligacy. No disinterested esteem of justice prompted him to the investigation of their conduct, or he would not have tortured the knights into self-condemnation. He had not even a fair case of prosecution. We are driven, then, to suppose that some private motive must have urged him to the destruction of an order celebrated for its heroical virtue, and which had been among the brightest ornaments of chivalry, and one of the firmest bulwarks of the Christian kingdom of Jerusalem. In these days of policy we can readily imagine CHAP. VII.

* On every account, Dante was justified in terming him, "Il mal di Francia." Del Purgatorio, vii. 109. After having reprehended Philip for his savage usage of Boniface VIII. the poet lashes him for his iniquitous condemnation of the Templars.

Veggio 'l nuovo Pilato, sì crudele,
Che ciò nol sazia, ma senza decreto
Porta nel tempio le cupide vele.
Del Purgatorio, canto 20, 91.

Lo! the new Pilate, of whose cruelty
Such violence cannot fill the measure up,
With no decree to sanction, pushes on
Into the temple his yet eager sails."
Cary's translation.

CHAP. VII. imagine that the existence of a body of soldiers who were totally independent of the sovereign of the country in which they resided, must have been highly dangerous to the state. Apprehensions of that nature were not, however, entertained by Philip. But there is abundant evidence to justify the assertion, that the real crime of the Templars was their wealth.* A little while before the proscription, Philip the Fair had robbed the Jews; but, in the year 1307, the finances of the kingdom were again in such an exhausted state, that after having solemnly promised the States-General to restore the coinage to its condition under Louis IX, Philip saw himself obliged to violate the royal word, or again to recruit his empty treasury by some new and

* "The chief cause of their ruin was their extraordinary "wealth. They were feared of many, envied of more, loved "of none. As Naboth's vineyard was the chiefest ground "for his blasphemy; and as, in England, Sir John Cornwall, lord Fanhope, said merrily, that not he, but his "stately house at Ampthill, in Bedfordshire, was guilty of "high treason; so certainly their wealth was the principal "evidence against them, and cause of their overthrow. It "is quarrel and cause enough to bring a sheep that is fat "to the shambles. We may believe king Philip would "never have taken away their lives, if he might have taken "their lands without putting them to death: but the mischief was, he could not get the honey unless he burnt the "bees." Fuller, History of the Holy War, book v. ch. iii.

and extraordinary expedient. As a scheme of finance, then, he plotted the destruction of the Templars, and, in the collection of French public charters, we find a document in which the king proposed the question, whether the goods of the Templars ought to be confiscated in favour of the prince of the country in whose kingdom they are situated. Many of the best historians of the fourteenth century ascribe the condemnation of the Templars to the cupidity of the French king. Such assertions are expressly made by St. Antoninus,* archbishop of Florence, and by Villani.† Boccacio is a witness for the assertion, that the Parisians attributed the severity of Philip to his avarice.‡ William Ventura, the historian of Asti, says, that this prosecution was excited by the envy and pecuniary selfishness of Philip, and that he hated

CHAP. VII.

* St. Antoninus, archbishop of Florence, p. 3, tit. 21, c. 1, f. 3, p. 92, ap. Raynal, ann. 1307, p. 18, cited in Sismondi, Hist. des Rép. Ital. vol. iv. ch. xxvi.

† Il quale (il Re di Francia) mosso da avaritia si fece promettere dal Papa secretamente di disfare la detta ordine de' Tempieri, opponendo contro a loro molti articoli di resia; ma piu si dice che fu per trarre di loro molta moneta, &c. Villani, Storie, lib. viii. c. 92, p. 429.

‡ Boccacio, de casibus Virorum illustrium, p. 260, 262, fol, *Aug. Vind.* 1544.

CHAP. VII. hated the Templars, because they had taken the part of Boniface, in the quarrel between that pontiff and the king.* Thus, then, his avarice was spurred on by his malignity. It is true, that by the decrees of the council of Vienne, the estates of the Templars were appropriated to the Hospitalians. As far as Philip the Fair was personally concerned, these decrees were of no consequence. While he was on the throne, he enjoyed the forfeited estates, and but few of the moveables of the knights were ever applied according to the commands of the Pope. Philip would gladly have condemned the Templars without the interference of Clement: but papal sanction was absolutely necessary, because the knights were not amenable to any court save that of the Pope. If Philip had, on his own authority, pronounced the abolition of the order, the people would have revered the Templars as victims of royal tyranny, and the nobility would have seized the property which once belonged to their own families. It was necessary, therefore, for the purpose of seducing the vulgar, to calumniate the knights, and to hold them to public view as heretical and impious men. Clement was

* Chron. Astense, c. xxvii. t. xi. p. 192, cited in Sismondi, ubi supra.

was as selfish as Philip, for many of the estates of the Templars were withheld from the Hospitallers till the new claimants paid large tribute to the coffers of St. Peter.* CHAP. VII.

* Chron. Pip. Muratori, Rer. Scrip. Ital. vol. ix. p. 750, and Walsingham.

CHAP. VIII.

REMARKS ON THE GENERAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE CRUSADES.

THE origin and history of the fanatical and military enterprises, called the Crusades, have been traced. No religious wars have ever been so long, so sanguinary, and so destructive. Countless hosts of holy warriors fell the victims of their own vindictive enthusiasm and military ardour. Fierceness and intolerance were the strongest features in the character of the dark ages, and it is, perhaps, not so much in the conduct, as in the object, of the crusades, that any thing distinct and peculiar can be marked. It was not for the conversion of people, or the propagation of opinions, but for the redemption of the sepulchre of Christ, and the destruction of the enemies of God, that the crimson standard was unfurled. The western world did not cast itself into Asia from any view of expediency, or in consequence of any abstract theoretical principle of a right of hostility; men did not arm themselves from any conviction that the co-existence of Christendom and Islamism was incompatible

compatible with the doctrines of the Koran, or that the countries of the west would be precipitated into the gulf of destruction, if Asia Minor were not torn from the Seljuk Turks, and restored to the emperor of Constantinople. But the flame of war spread from one end of Europe to the other, for the deliverance of the holy land from a state which was called pollution; and the floodgates of fanaticism were unlocked for the savage and iniquitous purpose of extermination! Count Robert of Flanders, one of the heroes of the first crusade, might indeed have wished to aid his imperial friend, Alexius, and pope Urban II. was swelled with the soul-inspiring idea of a glorious triumph of the Christian cause over infidelity. But popular madness would not listen to the calls of generous policy and lofty ambition. The wish for the redemption of the holy land was the feeling which influenced both Godfrey of Bouillon and St. Louis, the first and the last great champions of the cross; it was that wild desire which moved Europe for two centuries, and without it the crusades would never have been undertaken. Political ambition, ties of country and kindred, clerical authority, habit, and custom, encouraged the general principle, and while some fanatics courted the crown of martyrdom, others aspired to the guerdon of renown. But the usual feelings

CHAP. VIII.

CHAP. VIII.

ings of warriors did not create the crusades; they supported them indeed, yet when the flame of enthusiasm was extinguished, military ardour and papal power could not rekindle it.

The question of the justice of the holy wars is one of easy solution. The Crusaders were not called upon by Heaven to carry on hostilities against the Muselmans. Palestine did not, of right, belong to the Christians in consequence of any gift of God? and it was evident, from the fact of the destruction of the temple, that there was no longer any peculiar sanctity in the ground of Jerusalem. There is no command in the Scriptures for Christians to build the walls of the holy city, and no promise of an earthly Canaan as the reward of virtue. "It is mere "equivocation to call Palestine the Lord's he- "ritage, and the land promised to his people. "These expressions belong to the Old Testa- "ment, in the proper and literal sense, and can "be applied to the New only in a figurative "sense. The heritage which Christ purchased "with his blood is his church, collected from all "nations, and the land which he promised is "the heavenly country."*

If

* Fleury, cited in Jortin's Remarks on Ecclesiastical History, vol. iii. p. 337.

If Europe had armed itself for the purpose of succouring the Grecian emperor, the rendering of such assistance would have been a moral action, for the Saracenian march of hostility would not have stopped with the subjugation of Constantinople, and it is incumbent upon us to prevent a danger, as well as to repel one. If the Christians had been animated by the conviction that war with all the world was the vital principle of the Muhammedan religion, then also a right of hostility would have been raised.* But before

* This is Johnson's argument. "The lawfulness and "justice of the holy wars have been much disputed, but, "perhaps, there is a principle on which the question may "be easily determined. If it be a part of the religion of "the Mahometans, to extirpate by the sword all other reli- "gions, it is, by the laws of self-defence, lawful for men of "every other religion, and for Christians among others, to "make war upon Mahometans, simply as Mahometans, as "men obliged by their own principles to make war upon "Christians, and only lying in wait till opportunity shall "promise them success." Notes on Shakespeare's Henry IV. act i. scene i. In a similar strain, lord Bacon says, "It "is to be well noted, that towards ambitious states, which "are noted to aspire to great monarchies, and to seek upon "all occasions to enlarge their dominions, *crescunt argu- "menta justi metus*, all particular fears do grow and mul- "tiply out of the contemplation of the general causes and "practice of such states. Therefore, in deliberation of war "against the Turk, it hath been often, with great judgment, "maintained, that Christian princes and states have always "a sufficient

CHAP. VIII.

before they could have been justified on this last-mentioned argument, proof was necessary that the danger was imminent, and that time and circumstances had not reduced the principle to a mere dry inoperative letter of the law.* In the first hundred and fifty years of Muhammedan history, the Muselmans made continued and successful attacks on the Christians; and the invasion of France by the Spanish and African Moors, seemed to endanger Christendom as a world independent of and not tributary to the Saracens.

" a sufficient ground of invasive war against the enemy; not " for cause of religion, but upon a just fear; forasmuch as " it is a fundamental law in the Turkish empire, that they " may, without any other provocation, make war upon " Christendom for the propagation of their law; so that " there lieth upon Christians a perpetual fear of war, hang- " ing over their heads, from them; and therefore they may " at all times, as they think good, be upon the preventive." *War with Spain.* Bacon's Works, vol. iii. p. 505. edit. 1803. And in his Essays, " The Turk hath at hand, for cause of " war, the propagation of his law or sect; a quarrel that he " may always command." Vol. ii. p. 328.

* As it is in the present day with the Turkish nation. The principle that, for the purpose of converting the infidels, war is the ordinance of God, is acknowledged by the Muselman doctors. They have accommodated it, however, to modern times, by the explanation that the duty is sufficiently performed when only one Muhammedan country is in a state of hostility with an infidel people.

cens. In all that long period the people of the west might have instituted Crusades on principles of self-defence. But as they had acquiesced for ages in the existence of Islamism, they could not afterwards draw the sword, except for the purpose of preventing or repelling new aggressions. No dangers hung over Christendom at the time when the Crusades commenced. During the greater part of the century at the end of which the din of religious war resounded throughout Europe, the Seljukian Turks or Tartars were formidable foes to the oriental Christians, and, as we have seen, the terrified Greek emperors frequently implored the succour of the west. But some years before the call was answered, the Turkish empire had suffered the usual fate of oriental greatness, for the emir, Ortok, rebelled in Jerusalem, and the kingdom of Rhoum, or Asia Minor, would not own the supremacy of the Seljuks. If the sultan of Nice had been aided by the Seljukian lord, the Cæsars must have been hurled from their throne. But on the death of Soliman,* the new state in Asia Minor lost much of its vigour; and the fair prospects of the Tartars for universal dominion were blasted when Malek Shah died.† The royal vassals became independent monarchs.

 Asia,

* A. D. 1085. † A. D. 1092.

CHAP. VIII.

Asia, indeed, was warlike, but it was divided. The Crusaders, on their arrival in the Moslem states, were opposed by large armies; for the power of the European hosts had spread alarm over all Muselman Asia; and mutual jealousies yielded to the high necessity of preservation. But after the Christians had entered Syria, civil wars among the Turks were renewed; and the rightful lord of Nice had as many districts stript from him by his turbulent nobility as by his religious foes. The want of union between the Seljukian empire and the Seljukian kingdom of Rhoum, and the subsequent dismemberment of both these great states, were the circumstances in politics which preserved Constantinople. The first Crusaders restored much of Bithynia to the Greek emperor; and Alexius Comnenus and his successors profited by the victories of the soldiers of Christ, and of the dissentions among the Moslem emirs, and in consequence of these co-operating causes recovered the dominion over the Grecian shores of the Mediterranean and Euxine seas.

On principles of morals and politics, therefore, the holy wars cannot be justified. It has been shown, that no dangers menaced Europe at the commencement of the Crusades; and it is only a subject of conjecture whether circumstances

stances might in after times have warranted the military excitement of Christendom against Islamism. Perhaps the Latin kingdom of Jerusalem diverted the thoughts of Saladin from the subjugation of Constantinople. The master passion of that extraordinary man was hatred of the infidels; but the objects of his fanatical detestation were powerful in Palestine, and the lord of Syria and Egypt, of course, made their destruction his first attempt. The perpetual rebellions of the Atabeks prevented him for many years from seriously attacking the Franks. Death terminated his career of victory, before it could be proved whether his religious ambition was sated, or whether he would not lead his conquering armies into Asia Minor. It may, I think, be fairly conjectured that the only circumstance likely to have checked him, would have been his fear of the rebellion of his valuable province of Egypt, when he should be far removed from the seat of government. His dominion was much greater than that of the Ottoman monarchs when they stormed the capital of the Byzantine empire; and if Saladin's power had like theirs arisen in Asia Minor, the fall of Constantinople would have been the first and chief object in his desires of foreign hostility. The wars of the early Saracens with the Greeks had shown the difficulty of carrying on attacks upon

CHAP. VIII.

the imperial city, unless the whole of the surrounding states were at the command of the besiegers: and as Saladin could not sit down before Constantinople with the advantages which the Ottoman monarchs possessed, the issue perhaps might have been different.

In tracing the history of Europe in its progress from barbarism to refinement, and in accounting for the various phænomena of the moral world, the philosophical observer of man reverts with anxious seriousness to the Crusades of the Latins in the east. Those transmarine expeditions so deeply convulsed the moral fabric of the west, they stand so prominent in the picture of former ages, that curiosity is awakened to the investigation, whether they left some lasting impression of good or of evil on the world. In the two hundred years of their continuance, Europe was making slow and silent advances in arts and civilization; and there were great changes of scene in the political theatre. Viewing then the natural union between principle and event, and guarding ourselves against the error of confounding chronological coincidences with moral connexions, the inquiry is to be made into the consequences of the holy wars.*

A stamp

* Like many other subjects of inquiry, the philosophy of history has had its alchymists. The search of a single cause

CHAP. VIII.

A stamp of permanency was fixed on popular superstition when pilgrimages became a matter of public concern and national interest. At the same time also, they lost many of their original characteristics. Those religious journeys were only consistent with the Christian character, when they were performed in harmony with great and primary duties. They might have been considered the ornaments of a religious life if they had proceeded from holy sympathy; but when their essential merit was made to consist in the destruction of men, and trampling on the law of nations, their natural tendency was to indurate the heart, and brutalize the character. War became a sacred duty, and obligatory on every class of mankind. The fair face of religion was besmeared with blood, and heavenly attraction was changed for demoniacal repulsiveness. The Crusades encouraged the most horrible violences of fanaticism.* They were

 the

of all effects has bewildered the brains of many reasoners. At one time it was the literary fashion to pay more homage to Bagdad than to Rome; and, with equal wisdom, many writers have ascribed all the civilization and learning of Europe to the Crusades.

* Independently of the Crusades of children, which the reader will find mentioned in note T, there were two popular commotions in France during and after the thirteenth century, under pretence of crusading. In 1251 and 1320, certain fanatics

CHAP. VIII.

the precedent for the military contentions of the church with the Prussians and Albigenses; and as the execrable inquisition arose out of the spirit of clerical dragooning, the wars in Palestine brought a frightful calamity on the world. Universal dominion was the ambition of the Roman pontiffs; and the iniquity of the means was in dreadful accordance with the audacity of the project. The pastors of the church used anathemas, excommunications, interdicts, and every weapon in the storehouse of spiritual artillery: and when the world was in arms for the purpose of destroying infidels, it was natural that the soldiers of God should turn aside and chastise other foes to the true religion. Before the æra of hostilities in Palestine, among the objects of the military profession was the defence of the church. That circumstance has been mentioned as one great cause of the holy wars. Of itself it would naturally have led to aggressive hostility on heretics; and the Popes would have called on the world to arm for such purposes, although the example of Palestine had not been before them. But we know that they

tics raised popular assemblies for the avowed purpose of going to Jerusalem. Much blood was shed, and every species of lawlessness was committed. The Jews seem to have been the chief sufferers. Du Cange, Latin Glossary, article Pastorelli.

they did profit by the general disposition of the world to fight opinions, that the pardons and indulgences* which were given to one description of religious warriors, were imparted to another, and that the tide of blood and fanaticism did not flow only through Saracenian lands. Crusades with idolaters and erring Christians were considered as virtuous and as necessary as Crusades with Saracens; the south of France was saturated with heretical blood; and those booted apostles, the Teutonic knights, converted, sword in hand, the Prussians and Lithuanians from idolatry to Christianity.

The features of ferocity which religion assumed from the Asiatic contests, were not the only

* The conduct of the Popes in the holy wars has been noticed in several parts of this work. The result seems to be, that at first the heads of union gained authority by encouraging religious wars, but that they afterwards lost it by their arrogance and avarice. M. Heeren wishes us to think, but appears afraid openly to say, that the Crusades produced the Reformation. "Les Croisades firent aussi inventer les "*indulgences*, dont l'abus irrita Luther au seizième siécle, "et amena la réformation.—Peut on en conclure que les "Croisades soient la cause de la guerre des Hussites et de "la réformation de Luther?—On en peut conclure seule-"ment cette ancienne vérité, que tout est étroitement lié "dans la série des événemens qui forment les destinées de "notre espèce." Essai sur l'influence des Croisades, p. 176. See p. 340, ante, note.

CHAP. VIII.

only subject of evil. The penalties which the church inflicted on its members, as the temporal punishments of sin, might have been unwarranted by Scripture, and were, doubtless, often awarded by cruelty and caprice. But the practice of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, was in itself salubrious to the individual, and beneficial to society. It softened pride; it subdued the sensual passions; it diffused charity. Instead of these blessings, the slaughter of human beings was made the propitiation of offence; and the Christian virtues of self-denial and benevolence were considered an absurd and antiquated fashion. As the discipline of the church had been broken in upon for one purpose, it could be violated for another. The repentant sinner who could not take the cross himself, might contribute to the charge of the holy expedition. When offences were once commuted for money, the religious application of the price of pardon soon ceased to be necessary. Absolutions from penance became a matter of traffic, and holy virtues were discountenanced.

Undoubtedly the Crusades augmented the wealth of the clergy. It cannot indeed be shown that the church derived pecuniary benefit from any malversation in its office of guardian of

of the pilgrims', estates, and in the absence of proof, moral delinquency must not be inferred.* But the rapacious barons frequently plundered the clergy, and when afterwards they were brought to such a sense of religion as to resolve on a holy war, the restitution of ecclesiastical property became a necessary preliminary proceeding. Title deeds of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries abound with such restitutions. The passion of crusading extended to churchmen, but not with the same violence as it did to other classes, because the former possessed the larger share of sense and discretion. Accordingly the estates of the clergy were not much wasted in Palestine. The ecclesiastics therefore flourished more vigorously than other men; they took a high rank in society; and purchased the birth-rights of rash fiery enthusiasts

* In the legitimate exercise of their office of trustees and guardians, the clergy must of course have considerably augmented their wealth and influence. "Li Pontefici co'loro "brevi ricevettero sotto la protettione sua, e degli altre pre- "lati le case e li negotii de crocesignati, cosi si chiamavano "quelli, che andavano alla guerra, & questo apporto alle "chiese quell' accrescimento che suol apportare l'esser tu- "tore curatore ò procuratore di vedoue pupilli e minori, "ne il magistrato secolare poteva pensar pur di difendere "alcuno per il terrore delle censure, che all' hora s'adope- "ravano senza risparmio." P. Paolo, Trattato dell materie Beneficiare. vol. 1. p. 119. Opere, 5 vol. 12mo. 1675.

CHAP. VIII.

siasts who tried the hazard of fortune in the holy land.*

If, during the time of Crusades, Europe had enjoyed a state of peace, it might have been supposed that the existence of that happiness was attributable to the fact that the unsettled humours of the land had found occupation for their inquietude in Palestine. But the good as well as the bad enlisted themselves under the glorious ensign of the cross, and Europe was injured by one circumstance as much as she was blessed by the other. The horrors of civil war were stayed, and the truce of God was observed for a few years subsequently to the departure of the first Crusaders: but afterwards civil and national hostilities raged with unceasing and unrelenting fury; and moreover the spirit of the Crusades fanned the flame of military daring. When once the sword was drawn, it became the arbitrator

* The reader remembers that Godfrey of Bouillon sold many of his estates to the clergy. Robertson states on authorities which I have not been able to examine, that in the year 1096 Baldwin count of Hainault mortgaged or sold part of his demesnes to the bishop of Liege. At a later period (A. D. 1239) Baldwin count of Namur made a similar disposition of some of his land to a monastery when he intended to assume the cross. Proofs and Illustrations, note 13. sec. 1. to the View of Society in Europe.

arbitrator of domestic disputes as well as of foreign quarrel. The world was more warlike, and in some particulars more chivalric at the close of the Crusades than at their commencement. Inasmuch as they quickened military spirit and religious zeal, they had great influence on chivalry: and every true knight when he heard the Christian religion evil spoken of was prepared to defend it with his sword alone, which, according to the disposition of St. Louis, "he ought to thrust into the belly of his adversary as far as it would go." One great support or mark of chivalry was mainly owing to the Crusades. I mean the military and religious orders which exist even in the present day. The union of religion and arms preceded, indeed, the martial journeys into Syria, and the formation of those societies which constitute "the cheap defence of nations" would have taken place even if there had been no holy wars.* But it is a historical fact that on the dissolution of the order of knights Templars many new orders arose; so much of chivalry therefore as depends on those institutions, it may be said was partly derived from the Crusades.

There

* By the operation of the same principle which gave rise to the news of St. John and the Temple, many orders were founded in Spain in the course of the twelfth century.

CHAP. VIII.

There is a charm in the expression "the days "of chivalry" which is felt and acknowledged even in "times of sophisters and calculators, "and œconomists," The fancy dissipates a cloud of selfish and ignoble passions, and transporting itself to those remote ages which it gilds with the virtues of honour and courtesy, beholds the stately and polite cavalier, plated in habiliments of war, and bearing in his crested helm the glove of his mistress. We dwell with impassioned interest on "the fierce wars and "faithful loves" which moralized the songs of our early poets, and, losing nothing of our veneration for the regular beauties of classical lore, we can admire the rich and luxurious ornaments, which the creative imagination of romance has thrown around the disinterestedness and gallantry, the dignity and pathos of chivalry. Tasso and Ariosto, Chaucer and Spenser, breathed the fragrance of enchanted regions, and Milton, generally so stern and sublime, did not disdain to hear the muses sing of "knights' "and lords' gentle deeds." "I will tell you," that majestic bard declares, "whither my "younger feet wandered. I betook me among "those lofty fables and romances which re-"count in solemn cantos the deeds of chi-"valry."

"valry."* On the fair part of ancient warfare the Crusades cast a baleful influence. That tenacious and delicate regard to veracity which was a great characteristic of the true knight, must have lost much of its sensitiveness by the habitual and systematic violations of faith with infidels. A liberal treatment of prisoners was another remarkable point in the chivalric character. So firm was the trust of cavaliers in each others honour, that it was common for a victorious knight to suffer his captive to return to his own country, in order to collect his ransom. In the days of Richard and Saladin, some lofty and romantic feelings of generosity took from war many of its horrors, and the Turks even aspired to the distinction of Christian knighthood. But on most other occasions, as there was no common tie of religion between the two people, no principle mutually acknowledged, CHAP. VIII.

* Apology for Smectymnuus. Prose works, vol. 1. p. 224. 8vo. And in another place he says with equal enthusiasm.

O mihi si mea sors talem concedat amicum,
Phœbæos decorâsse viros qui tam bene nôrit,
Signandò indigenas revocatio in carmina reges,
Arturumque etiam sub terris bella moventem!
Aut dicam invictæ sociali fœdere mensæ
Magnanimos heroas.

Mansus, 78—83.

CHAP. VIII.

ledged, the cavaliers would place no trust in the word of men whom they either hated or despised. In some cases a pure thirst of glory and a generous love of renown impelled the European soldiers into the east: but bigotry and cruelty were the general and ruling passions of holy warriors. When, indeed, the knight was errant in Palestine, as the price of female smiles, the full effects of chivalry and of holy wars were similar. But these instances were comparatively rare. The western world precipitated itself into Asia from fanatical, not romantic motives; for purposes of savage destruction, not of that high-minded protection of women which the lawless state of society in Europe rendered necessary, and which was granted in consequence of the deep feelings of veneration with which the German ancestors of the cavaliers had always regarded the opposite sex.* Palestine was the land of religion, but not of love. The Crusaders were armed devotees rather than gentle knights. The prize of beauty was not joined with the praise of arms. The soldiers of the cross had all the heroism, but none of the polish, of knight-errantry, and the sword leaped from

* Inesse quinetiam sanctum aliquid, et providum putant: nec aut consilia earum aspernantur, aut responsa negligunt, &c. Tacitus, Germania, c. viii.

from its scabbard, not for the generous purpose of avenging the looks which threatened beauty with insult; but for the vile and rude office of striking off a Saracen's head. In Europe, they fought for Heaven and the ladies; in Palestine, for Heaven only; and the spirit of military fanaticism was so much stronger than that of military gallantry, that many noble cavaliers, disdaining the soft collar of the gentle affections, aspired to high and austere virtues, and enrolled themselves in those martial fraternities, of which celibacy was the key, in order that the "lascivious pleasings of the lute" should be drowned in the roarings of the brazen throat of Paynim war.

It cannot be shown, that the condition of the people was ameliorated, or that the tyranny of the aristocracy was broken by the holy wars. Much blood and treasure were wasted; but in no greater ratio in one class of society than in another, for the epidemic ran through all ranks of people, and potentates and plebeians* made consentaneous

* The papal authority for a crusade operated as an act of temporary enfranchisement of every description of slaves: but such of them as returned from the holy wars resumed of course their old occupations; consequently Europe gained nothing by the matter.

CHAP. VIII.

consentaneous movements and simultaneous exertions. However calamitous might have been the lot of individuals, yet it does not appear that families were ruined or became extinct in consequence of the Crusades. Religious madness was hereditary, and the reader of these volumes must have often remarked how frequently, though at distant intervals, members of the same family appeared on the scene. For example, the counts of St. Paul, Flanders, and Blois, of every generation, headed their well-appointed powers, and spread the bloody cross on Paynim ground. If the crown had been aggrandized by the holy wars, we might expect to find instances of it in the French monarchy particularly; because the valorous noblesse of France entered into the crusades with more enthusiasm than other people, and because we know that the throne of that country was more powerful at the close of the thirteenth, than at the end of the eleventh, century.* In this long interval many of

* It must be remembered, however, that Louis VII. lost the duchy of Guienne or Aquitain, after his return from the holy land. See vol. i. p. 393, ante. As the queen's infirmities were those of constitution, we can agree with M. Heeren, that it is probable she would not have treated her husband better in Europe than in Asia, and that, therefore, we can only account this event as accidentally connected with the crusades. Essai sur l'Influence des Croisades, p. 182, note.

of the grand fiefs were reannexed to the crown. Artois was gained by marriage; the county of Alençon, by purchase. Vermandois and Valois were added to the dominion of Philip Augustus by the donation of the last possessor. The same prince acquired Normandy, Maine, Touraine, Poitiers, and Anjou, because he profited by the imbecility of king John of England, and the divisions among the barons consequent on the circumstance, that some of them espoused the cause of Arthur, duke of Bretagne, and others, that of his uncle. Philip the Fair established his seignorial rights over Champagne, by virtue of his marriage with the heiress of that county. The fief of Macon, also, was united to the throne in the days of the Crusades. Not, however, in consequence of war, but because the last count and countess had no children, and the count sold it to St. Louis. The county of Perche, also a part of the Norman territories, followed after some years the fate of the parent state. The French crown regained the south of France partly by war, and partly by marriage. The county of Carcasson* was added to the monarchy by St. Louis, in the time of the contests with

* The counts of Carcasson seem to have divided with the counts of Tholouse all the territory which commonly goes under the name of the south of France.

CHAP. VIII.

the Albigenses. Charles of Anjou, a brother of St. Louis, received with his wife the great dower of Provence,* and some years afterwards made a violent seizure of the Provençal marquisate, and of all the estates† which appertained to the house of Tholouse. Except the county and city of Bourges, which a French king purchased from a crusading knight, no regal acquisitions of arrere fiefs proceeded from the holy wars. The French monarchs were early sensible of the advantages of obtaining arrere fiefs, and of becoming subjects to their own subjects. Only a few of such additions to power were made till the reign of Philip Augustus: and it seems, that when the sovereign acquired a grand fief, he generally purchased the arrere fiefs dependant on it.‡

We are unaccustomed to think that the national and civil hostilities which raged in the west during the middle ages, were favourable to intellectual cultivation, and it would be as difficult

* La gran dote Provenzale. Dante, Del Purg. xx. 61.

† See the catalogue and history of the grand fiefs of the French monarchy, in the second volume of L'Art de vérifier les Dates.

‡ See M. Dacier's treatise on the subject of the arrere fiefs of France, in the Memoirs of the Academy of Inscriptions and Belles-Lettres.

difficult to prove that the holy wars were beneficial to Europe, by rousing it from intellectual torpidity, and strengthening or refining the tone of mind. They were times of action rather than of letters. They excited a cruel and savage courage, and lighted the consuming fires of superstition. Spoliation and slaughter were accounted the highest pitch of human glory, and, therefore, all that most merited fame was in silence hid. The gentle notes of the Orphean lyre were unheard amidst the boisterous alarums of war. Modes for the destruction of men, not for their amelioration, employed the minds of Christians. The humble and unobtrusive virtues of peace, and their long train of useful and elegant arts were not fostered; for tranquillity was perpetually broken in upon; the leaders of opinions made the duty of war their greatest theme, and when the indulgence of the ferocious passions became sanctified, no desire could be felt to emerge from rudeness and ignorance. Much has been written on the supposed advantages to Europe of the collision of minds produced by the mixture of the various nations of Christendom in the course of the Crusades. But except in the first of these holy wars, the union among them was never either cordial or lasting. Indeed, dissensions were a main cause of ultimate want of success. The connection between

CHAP. VIII.

different states was so short and occasional, that national prejudices were not softened, political varieties obliterated, or mutual knowledge interchanged. At the close of the Crusades, the nations of Europe were as much separated as they had been at the commencement. Religion had united them for awhile; but the band soon was broken, and the world returned to its former state.

The opinion which has been alluded to, cannot, perhaps, be opposed altogether; but there are many reasons which prevent us from ascribing to it much importance. The history of the times afford but few indications of any improvements that the religious soldiers brought home with them. The traveller studies the appearances of man and nature, and on his return, his native land became benefited by his curiosity and labours. The merchant is in quest of gain, and in the interchange of the productions of nature or industry, distant countries are brought into something like a social union; ideas are communicated, and taste and elegance must be cultivated as the supporters of those artificial wants which luxury and plenty have introduced. But if the pilgrim ever steps out of his course, it is only to collect with holy reverence those relics which his idolatrous fancy has sanctified, and the

the mere soldier can imbibe no ideas except those which are connected with his professional habits. The letters that enlighten, the sciences that improve, and the arts that polish life, are not in the intellectual sphere of either.* CHAP. VIII.

Nor did the western Christians profit by their connection with the Greeks. Some love of ancient learning and arts must have existed; some literary sympathy was necessary, before the Latins could understand or appreciate the advantages of intellectual cultivation. Moreover, it was only for half a century subsequent to the fifth crusade, that the intercourse with Constantinople was at all permanent. Before that time, large masses of people rolled over the Grecian

 empire;

* Mr. Berington observes, with truth, "If it be still insisted that some benefits in domestic, civil, or scientific knowledge were necessarily communicated to Europe, either by the expeditions themselves, or, at least, owing to our long abode in the east, I ask, what those benefits were? or how it happens, that the literary and intellectual aspect of Europe exhibited no striking changes till other causes, wholly unconnected with the Crusades, were brought into action? I believe, then, that these expeditions were utterly sterile with respect to the arts, to learning, and to every moral advantage, and that they neither retarded the progress of the invading enemy, nor, for a single day, the fate of the eastern empire." Literary History of the Middle Ages, p. 269.

CHAP. VIII.

empire; they gazed, perhaps, some with stupid admiration; more with secret contempt; and others made a cry of ignorant astonishment, at the exterior grandeur of the towers, and temples, and palaces before them: but they paused not to contemplate their beauties with the hope or wish of imitation; they were strangers to the language of Greece;* they despised the natives as an heretical and effeminate race; and they could brook no delay in worshipping the sepulchre, and killing the infidels. In the fifth expedition, when the storm of religious and national hatred burst upon Greece, the Latins, instead of beholding with the awe of classical enthusiasm the marbled and bronzed representations of ancient virtue and genius, destroyed the former, and coined the latter into drachmas. The

* Neither did the Greeks know the Latin language. Some traces of it may be found in the ceremonial of the Byzantine court: but it was not much known beyond the cloister or the court. Before the great schism in the church, a free communication was kept up between the clergy of the west and east. The spirit of pilgrimizing was favourable to this intercourse. Some travelling monks brought the works of Origen into Europe in the fifth century. We have repeatedly seen in the course of this history, that the Crusades added new fuel to that theological hatred between the Greeks and Latins which other circumstances created, and that there was not the least disposition to a literary intercourse between the two people.

The savage conquerors of Constantinople carried, in mock procession, the pens and inkhorns of the vanquished. Even the tomb of the Roman lawgiver was violated, and in the triple fire of the city, the incendiaries were never checked in their savage gratifications, by the dread lest the flames should devour some sacred remnant of the learning of Greece or Rome. The Latins, during the half century in which they were lords of the imperial city, did not adopt the letters of the subjugated people.* Indeed, it was not for many years posterior to the Crusades, and until some master spirits arose in Italy, that any serious or well-connected attempts were made, to draw knowledge from its original fountains, or that the purity of its course through Arabic channels was suspected. The real revivers of Greek literature were Petrarch and Boccacio, who, in the fourteenth century, applauded the learning of Leontius and of Baar-

* Rigord, in his life of Philip Augustus, tells us that the metaphysics of Aristotle, translated into Latin, were carried to Paris after the sack of Constantinople. I know of no other book that the West received from the East, in consequence of the Latin reign over Greece. The conquerors despised remains of literature; but they were diligent hunters after relics. Superstition received additional food by the sack of Constantinople, and every country of Europe for ages acknowledged its obligations.

CHAP. VIII.

lam the Calabrian, and established in Florence the earliest professor's chair in Europe, for the teaching of the Greek language.*

In the time of the Crusades, the cloud of ignorance overspread both the east and the west. The glory as well as the power of the caliphs of Bagdad had long been extinguished, and the arts no longer flourished on the banks of the Tigris. Letters and science had run their appointed circle in the Saracenian empire. The Seljuk princes had, indeed, rekindled the torch of science, but it shed only some faint and momentary gleams, for the Tartars could not readily throw aside the conquering scymitar, and clothe themselves in weeds of peace. The Seljukian monarchy was dismembered before the Christians crossed the Hellespont, and the din of civil war in Asia Minor and Syria drove the muses from their peaceful seats.* More than two

* Cosi a due Calabresi Barlaamo e Leonzio e a due Fiorentini, cioe al Boccacio ben istruito in questa lingua, e al Petrarca, che non n'ebbe che qualche tintura, ma pur fomentonne molto lo studio, dovette l'Italia il fervore, con cui si preserva ricercare e a studiare gli autori Greci. Tiraboschi, Storia della Letteratura Ital. vol. xii. p. 294, edit. 1778.

* The noise and disorders of wars, Sir William Temple elegantly says, have ever been the most capital enemies of the

two hundred years before the preaching of Peter the Hermit, the people of Europe had been awakened from their barbarism by the genius of the east. Arabic science had a longer and more splendid sway in Spain than in Bagdad, and there was a struggle of several centuries duration, between the Saracens and the Italians, for dominion over the isles in the Mediterranean. From these two causes the learning of the Arabians insensibly mingled with, and invigorated the western mind. The school of Salernum was founded in the ninth century by Charlemagne, and, under the auspices of that eminent man, the principal Arabic books, both originals and translations, were transfused into the Latin tongue, for the advantage of his people. In the tenth century, Gerbert, who was afterwards Pope Silvester the Second, acquired from the Spanish Moors the decimal scale, and his ambition of enlightening his flock was as strong as the ambition of many of his holy successors of sinking them into darkness. The monastery of Cassino was the great seat of letters in the eleventh century, and the religious inhabitants of that

the muses, who are seated, by the ancient fables, upon the top of Parnassus; that is, in a place of safety and of quiet, from the reach of all noises and disturbances of the regions below. Works, vol. i. p. 167, fol. 1720.

CHAP. VIII.

that place claimed pre-eminence on account of their acquisition of Arabic learning. The stream of knowledge flowed through Europe during all the time of the Crusades, but there is no evidence that new sources of literature were opened, or that mind received any scientific stimulus by the expeditions into Palestine. Piety or valour, and not a learned curiosity, drove people from Europe to Jerusalem. The spear and shield were seldom idly suspended; for bellum ad internicionem was accounted the high duty of the oriental Latins. In the adjacent Muselman towns there were few of those literary institutions which had ennobled the Abassidan caliphate. Some embers of learning might be found at Bagdad, but it does not appear that, in the breathing intervals of peace, there was much communication between that city and Jerusalem. Neither were there any mental affinities, nor any sympathetic attraction between the warriors of Christendom and those of Islamism. If the soldiers of Palestine were ever diverted from slaughter and rapine to the practice of any mild and virtuous actions, it was to deeds of charity and the duties of the cloister: and, as if it were necessary that the duties of the soldier and the priest should wholly engross the soul, they did not scruple to boast that they were rude and unlettered. The collecting of relics seems to have been

been the favourite occupation of the Crusaders when they relaxed from the labours of extermination; accordingly the western world was deluged by corporeal fragments of departed saints, and every city had a warehouse of the dead. Except Constantine Afer, who travelled over Asia in search of knowledge, European students repaired to Cassino, Salernum, or to Spain. Peter, the abbot of Clugni, acquired the Arabic language at Toledo; and, under his patronage, an English student in Spain, prepared the first Latin version of the Koran that ever was made. Adelard of Bath, Daniel Morley, and Robert of Reading, are the names of some other Englishmen "honoured in their generations," for their acquaintance with mathematics and philosophy gained in the Spanish peninsula. Beithar, Averroes, and Avenpace, were Arabs whose works gave a tone and character to the intellect of Europe; and these three men were African or Spanish Mobrs. Equal in reputation with them were Al Gazel and Avicenna; the former lived at Bokhara in Tartary, and the latter at Bagdad. Copies of the works of these two great writers might *possibly* have been transmitted to Europe by the Christians in Palestine: but we *know* that they were devoutly studied in Spain, and that all the Arabic Spanish knowledge was communicated to every

CHAP. VIII.

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CHAP. VIII.

part of the west. The south of France was always more enlightened than the north; for Marseilles and other commercial towns never entirely lost that polish of civilization which they had received, by reason of their connection with the great states of antiquity; and their continued habits of commerce made them rich and luxurious. When, therefore, Raymond Berenger, count of Barcelona, acquired the throne of Provence, his new subjects were well fitted to receive the Arabic notions of taste and elegance which he introduced from Spain. But still a great cause of the diffusion of oriental imagery and oriental apologues over the literature of the west, was unquestionably owing to the intercourse between Asia and Europe, occasioned by pilgrimages, crusades, and commerce. The minstrels, who were the successors of the northern scalds, travelled to Palestine both before and during the holy wars. When, for instance, Louis VII. went into the east, he was accompanied by "Legions de Poetes," to "charm the seas to give him gentle pass," and to solace him with their songs during the dangers and inconveniences of so long a voyage.* It was merely agreeable fictions that were communicated; nothing but what might be gained from

* Warton, History of English Poetry, vol. i. p. 111.

from a short and casual intercourse. The circumstance of Muselmans aspiring to the dignity of chivalry, is a subject, indeed, of the Trouveurs, or poets of the north of France, who flourished from the close of the twelfth to the middle of the fourteenth century. But the wars between the Christians and infidels in the holy land form no part of their theme. Those Italian novels which constitute much of the basis of the Decameron of Boccacio are likewise barren of crusading events: but if it be true that many of those novels were drawn from the Fabliaux of the Trouveurs, we cannot expect to find in the copy what does not exist in the original. The bright days of Troubadour song were also coeval with the Crusades. The Provençal poets sometimes emerged from the mystics of love * to

CHAP. VIII.

* Such as the difficult question, whether a lover had rather behold his mistress dead, or married to his successful rival. Every deep and delicate subject was discussed in the *courts of love* with the greatest solemnity, and with all the abstractions of metaphysical refinement; "and it is proba-"ble," a polite author observes, "that the disputes on "these subjects would have produced as many heresies in "love as in religion, but that the judgment-seat in the tri-"bunals was filled by ladies, whose decision was very pro-"perly admitted to be final and absolute. It should seem "that the Provençals were so completely absorbed in these "abstract speculations, as to neglect and despise the com-"position of fabulous histories, only four of which are attri-

"buted

CHAP. VIII.

to excite the zeal of princes and subjects for the recovery of the holy land. Occasionally, and accidentally Palestine was the scene of their romantic passion.* As the Crusades were wild and

" buted to the Troubadours; and even these are rather " legions of devotion than of chivalry." Preface to the Fabliaux, p. 26.

* One Troubadour, Geoffrey Rudel, died for the charms of an imaginary mistress. He became, says Warton, enamoured from fancy of the countess of Tripoli, whom he had never seen. He embarked for the east; fell sick during the voyage through the fever of expectation, and was brought on shore half expiring. The countess, having heard the news of the arrival of this gallant stranger, hastened to the shore, and took him by the hand: he opened his eyes, and, at once overpowered by disease and gratitude, had but just time to say inarticulately, that having seen her he died satisfied. The countess caused him to be magnificently buried among the knights Templars, was seized with a profound melancholy, and turned nun.

This history may bring to the reader's recollection another equally romantic and dreadful, which is told of Ralph, Chatelain de Coucy, who went with the lord de Coucy to the holy land in the third crusade, and who was mortally wounded at the siege of Acre. In his last moments he bequeathed his heart to his mistress, who was a married woman (a fashionable sort of attachment in the twelfth century as well as in the nineteenth). The husband met the messenger, and seized the precious relic. His mode of revenge was not more gross than was the love of the Chatelain. His cooks dressed the heart, and it was placed at the family board. Unluckily for herself, the lady, not being a square elbowed

and romantic adventures, it might be expected that they would have formed the great topics of popular fiction. But, excepting the romance concerning Richard, and another relating to Godfrey, the Crusades are not the subject of the romances of chivalry.* The victories of Arthur and Charlemagne were still dwelt upon, though the

elbowed family drudge, never interfered with culinary details, and knew not the quality of the repast. She partook freely of the heart, whose genuine taste, like that of the young Saracen's head eaten by Richard, was disguised by "spicery powder and saffron." Her malignant lord then told her of the dreadful mistake which she had made. Out of grief and indignation she vowed that no other food should ever pass her lips; and she continued firm to her purpose till her life closed.

* "Nothing can be worse founded than the assertion of "Warburton and Warton, that, after the holy wars, a new "set of champions, conquests, and countries, were introduced into romance; and that Soliman, Noureddin, with "the cities of Palestine and Egypt, became the favourite "topics. Mr. Ritson has justly remarked that no such "change took place as is pretended; and so far from the "Crusades and holy land becoming favourite topics, there "is not, with the exception of the uninteresting romance of "Godfrey of Bouillon, a single tale of chivalry founded on "any of these subjects. Perhaps those celebrated expeditions, undertaken for the recovery of the holy land, were "too recent, and too much matters of real life, to admit "the decorations of fiction." Dunlop, History of Fiction, vol. ii. p. 140. 2d edit.

CHAP. VIII.

the brilliant achievements of holy warriors were before the writers. The fame of the latter had not transcended the glory of the former. This love of ancient chivalry influenced the courts of princes as well as the haunts of poets; and it was the reputation of Arthur, not that of Godfrey, which Edward III. wished to emulate, and in honour of whom he kept a round table of knights.

The last point of enquiry into the consequences of the holy wars, concerns their effects on the political relations of the great European states. As the Crusades were carried on for holy objects, not for civil or national ends, their connection with politics could only have been collateral and indirect. The spirit of crusading, composed as it was of superstition and military ardour, was hostile to the advancement of knowledge and liberty; and, consequently, no improvement in the civil condition of the kingdoms of the west could have been the legitimate issue of the principles of the holy wars. The Pope was the only monarch who mixed politics with his piety; and if Frederic II. had died in the holy land, or the Pope had executed his schemes of ambition, then the Asiatic annals would have become closely connected with the history of Germany and Italy. The other princes seem

to

to have been influenced by the spirit of religion or of chivalry; and it was only in the attempts again to disorder the intellect of Europe, that we find one monarch, Henry IV. of England, acting the part of a crafty politician. Great changes in the political aspect of Europe were coeval with, but were not occasioned by, the holy wars. The power of the French crown was much higher at the end of the thirteenth, than it had been at the same period of the eleventh century; but the influence of the imperial throne was materially depressed. These opposite effects could never have been the simple results of the same cause; namely, the loss of the flower of the western aristocracy in Palestine. The hereditary succession of the French monarchy had been made a fundamental law in the time of Hugh Capet. Unlike Germany, therefore, the nobles of France were not aggrandised by the possession of the elective franchise. The Capetian monarchs acquired many great and small fiefs, not on account of the absence or death of the barons in the holy wars, but, as we have seen, in consequence of circumstances totally unconnected with the Crusades. The causes of the depression of imperial authority were the aggrandisement of the nobles, (a natural effect of the feudal system,) the improvident grants of lands which the Suabian family made to the

CHAP. VIII.

clergy; the contests between the Popes and emperors respecting their different jurisdictions, and, above all the rest, the destructive wars which the emperors waged in the north of Italy for the re-annexation of that country to the throne of the descendants of the imperial house of Charlemagne. The political changes in England cannot with justice be attributed to the Crusades. Until the days of Richard I. holy wars had not become a general or a national concern. The monarchy stood the same at the close of his reign as at its commencement; and the only favourable issue of Cœur de Lion's armament was an increase of military reputation. His renunciation of feudal sovereignty over Scotland had no influence on politics. Edward I. pressed his claim, although Richard had deprived him of his strongest support. The pusillanimous John assumed the cross; but that circumstance did not occur until after he had surrendered his crown to the papal see, and until the barons had formed a confederacy against him. His assumption of the cross, neither retarded nor accelerated the progress of English liberty. The Pope was not linked to him by stronger ties than those which had formerly bound them; and the barons were not deceived by the religious hypocrisy of the king. The transmarine expeditions of the earls of Cornwall and

and Salisbury, and of prince Edward, in the reign of Henry III. were the ebullitions of religious and military ardour, but did not affect the general course of events. CHAP. VIII.

The great political circumstance of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, and which was important above all others to civil liberty, was the appearance of free and corporate towns. But the Crusades neither produced their establishment, nor affected their history. Whenever any part of the public became more rich and enlightened than the rest, the tyranny of the aristocracy was found to be insupportable. The kings of France and England eagerly assisted the burghers of their respective countries, and enfranchised the towns in order to raise a barrier against baronial aggressions on the throne. In France it became a maxim, that no commune could be formed without the king's consent, and his officers were established in every town. The free cities in Germany acknowledged some feudal rights in the emperor. The Alps separated the Lombard towns from their liege lords, and the dissimilarity of natural situation was highly favourable to the Italians, who were, moreover, encouraged in rebellion by the Pope, happy of any occasion of humbling the emperor. After

CHAP. VIII.

various vicissitudes of fortune the battle of Legnano, and the peace of Constance, established the independence of the towns in the north of Italy. The Crusades did not contribute to these events; for the two sacred expeditions which had taken place were as disastrous to peasants as to princes, and drained Europe of all ranks of society. Consequently it was not from the holy wars that the people gained their liberties. We find that so ill regulated was the liberty of the towns alluded to, that anarchy soon succeeded. Men of personal importance and wealth aspired to sovereign honours; an overwhelming aristocracy extinguished freedom, and at the end of the thirteenth century there were as many princes in Tuscany and Lombardy as there had been free towns at the end of the twelfth.* It is only in the maritime cities of Italy that any indisputable influence of the Crusades can be marked. Trade with the Christian states in Palestine, and the furnishing of transports to the pilgrims, increased the wealth of the commercial cities.† The capture of Constantinople by the French and Venetians was important in its issues. Venice regained maritime ascendancy: but, it was soon

* Hallam's Middle Ages, vol. i. ch. iii. part i.

† Muratori, Antiq. Italiæ. Med. Ævi, II. 905.

soon taken from her by the Genoese, who aided the Greeks to recover their capital. Genoa then became a leading power in the Mediterranean, and she subdued Pisa. The rapid increase of the wealth and power of Venice and Genoa, and the eventual destruction of Pisa seem, then, to form the principal circumstances in commercial history which the Crusades were instrumental in producing. But how insignificant were these events, both locally and generally, both in their relation to Italy and to the general history of Europe, when compared with the discovery of a maritime passage to India!

A view of the heroic ages of Christianity, in regard to their grand and general results, is an useful and important, though a melancholy employment. The Crusades retarded the march of civilization, thickened the clouds of ignorance and superstition; and encouraged intolerance, cruelty, and fierceness. Religion lost its mildness and charity; and war its mitigating qualities of honour and courtesy. Such were the bitter fruits of the holy wars! Painful is a retrospect of the consequences; but interesting are the historical details of the heroic and fanatical achievements of our ancestors. The per-

 fect

CHAP. VIII.

fect singularity of the object, the different characters of the preachers and leaders of the Crusades, the martial array of the ancient power and majesty of Europe, the political and civil history of the Latin states in Syria, the military annals of the orders of St. John and the Temple, fix the regard of those who view the history of human passions with the eyes of a philosopher or a statesman. We can follow with sympathy both the deluded fanatic, and the noble adventurer in arms, in their wanderings and marches through foreign regions, braving the most frightful dangers, patient in toil, invincible in military spirit. So visionary was the object, so apparently remote from selfish relations, that their fanaticism wears a character of generous virtue. The picture, however, becomes darkened, and nature recoils with horror from their cruelties, and with shame from their habitual folly and senselessness. Comparing the object with the cost, the gain proposed with the certain peril, we call the attempt the extremest idea of madness, and wonder that the western world should for two hundred years pour forth its blood and treasure in chase of a phantom. But the Crusades were not a greater reproach to virtue and wisdom, than most of those contests which

which in every age of the world pride and ambition have given rise to. If what is perpetual be natural, the dreadful supposition might be entertained that war is the moral state of man. The miseries of hostilities almost induce us to think, with the ancient sage, that man is the most wretched of animals. Millions of our race have been sacrificed at the altar of glory and popular praise, as well as at the shrine of superstition. Fanciful claims to foreign thrones, and the vanity of foreign dominion have, like the Crusades, contracted the circle of science and civilization, and turned the benevolent affections into furious passions. But

> They err, who count it glorious to subdue
> By conquest far and wide, to over-run
> Large countries, and in field great battles win,
> Great cities by assault: What do these worthies,
> But rob and spoil, burn, slaughter, and enslave
> Peaceable nations, neighbouring, or remote,
> Made captive, yet deserving freedom more
> Than those their conquerors, who leave behind
> Nothing but ruin wheresoe'er they rove,
> And all the flourishing works of peace destroy.*

We feel no sorrow at the final doom of the Crusades, because in its origin the war was

 iniquitous

* Paradise Regained, book 3. 71, &c.

CHAP. VIII.

iniquitous and unjust. "THE BLOOD OF MAN "SHOULD NEVER BE SHED BUT TO REDEEM THE "BLOOD OF MAN. IT IS WELL SHED FOR OUR "FAMILY, FOR OUR FRIENDS, FOR OUR GOD, FOR "OUR KIND. THE REST IS VANITY, THE REST IS "CRIME."*

*Burke.

ADDITIONAL NOTES.

Note (A).—Page 2.

"HAVING promised the Croises great success, in the name "of the Lord, and finding them soundly banged, and utterly "discomfited, he wrote an apology for himself, justifying "his promises, and laying the fault entirely on the vices of "the Croises. You never knew a fanatic pretending to "prophecy, who ever blushed when his predictions came to "nought, or ever was at a loss for some paltry subterfuge "in his own vindication." Jortin, Remarks on Ecclesiastical History, vol. iii. p. 231.—Au lieu d'avouer de bonne foi qu'il avoit été trompé le premier, il se sauva dans la pitoyable asyle des promesses conditionelles, faisant entendre que quand il avoit predit que la croisade seroit heureuse, c'etoit en sous entendant comme une condition nécessaire que les croisez n'offenseroient point le bon Dieu par le déreglement de leurs mœurs. Avouez moi que c'est se moquee du monde, que de s'ériger en prophète, pour prédire ce qui n'arrivera jamais, et pour ne pas dire un seul mot de ce qui arrivera effectivement. Ou il ne faloit pas que S. Bernard se melast de prédire l'avenir, ou il devoit prédire les desordres effectifs dans lesquelles les croisez tomberent au lieu de leur promettre des victoires imaginiaires qui ne devoient jamais arriver. Bayle, Pensées diverses, tome ii. p. 780. Rotterdam, 1683.

Note

Note (B).—Page 19.

For the third crusade, the materials are rich and ample. I have gained much from my old guides Bernardus the treasurer, James de Vitry, the anonymous history of Jerusalem in Bongarsius, Nicetas, M. Paris, and Herold, one of the continuations of William of Tyre. The circumstances of the emperor Frederic's crusade are told in the annals of Godfrey the monk, Tageno, and the history of the expedition of Barbarossa, by an anonymous but contemporary writer. Rigord's History of Philip Augustus furnished me with a few particulars: but my great leader was the Itinerary of Richard to the holy-land, by Jeffrey of Vinesauf, contained in the second volume of Gale's important collection of English historians. Vinesauf is highly praised by Leland; but some caution is necessary in reading the work of a man, who equals Richard to Ulysses in eloquence, and to Nestor in wisdom. Hoveden's book is principally valuable for its state papers, and its reaching to a later time than the work of Benedict, abbot of Peterborough, which Hoveden has often abridged, and Bromton has merely transcribed. William of Newborough is an author next in merit, I think, to Malmsbury. His narrative is in the style of a history, and not of a mere chronicle. For my Arabic authorities, Abulfeda continues useful, but my greatest reliance is placed upon Bohadin, the friend and historian of Saladin. M. Michaud, author of the French History of the Crusades, now in the course of publication, has had access to the Latin translations which the late Father Berthéreau, a Maurite monk, made from various Arabic manuscripts. Except in one case, which I shall mention when it occurs, they appear to be of very little value. They throw no new light on the general history, and only reassert facts which have already been amply proved.

Note

Note (C).—Page 22.

Though the history of the reciprocal state of the Greeks and Latins cannot be admitted into a work which, like the present, is only a supplement or appendix to national histories, yet I may be allowed to *remind* my reader, that from very early times there were greater animosities between the Greeks and Latins than between any two countries of Europe or Asia. The people of Greece and Constantinople hated those of the west, as descendants of the ferocious savages who had extinguished the power of classic Rome in Europe. The Greeks were proud of their learned and potent ancestors, and despised all other nations as rude and ignorant. The martial Latins held in equal contempt the luxurious and effeminate Greeks. In the sixth century the bishops of Jerusalem and Constantinople were elevated to the dignity of patriarchs, and were equal to the patriarchs of Rome, Alexandria, and Antioch: yet the patriarch of Rome had always precedence of the patriarch of Constantinople, agreeably to the custom of revering the majesty of the republic, and of the consul of the west preceding the consul of the east. But the ecclesiastical governors of the two greatest cities of the world soon considered each other as rivals, and contended for power. In the end the bishop of Rome was more potent than the bishop of Constantinople, because, Italy being deserted by its Greek lords, the Pope became a temporal monarch as well as a spiritual guide, and because Europe was not, like Asia, unchristianised by the Musulmans. In the eighth century the Christian world was divided into two great factions, on the subjects of the procession of the Holy Ghost, and the worship of images. In the eleventh century the Greeks widened the breach, by accusing the Latins of various acts and opinions of heresy. The latter used unleavened bread in the holy supper; they confined

confined themselves to one single immersion in the rite of baptism; their bishops wore rings like bridegrooms, kept sabbaths, and did not refrain from things strangled, and from blood. Notwithstanding the violence of national and religious hatred, the emperors of Constantinople frequently indulged the hope of being able to unite the crowns of the west and east. Manuel Comnenus gained the friendship of the Pope; formed for himself and children matrimonial connections with Latin princes, and entrusted Frenchmen with high official charges. This attachment to the Latins was odious and detestable in the eyes of his own subjects. The Greeks dissembled for a while their feelings; but at length the concealed rage and fury of many centuries burst into a flame. The natives of Constantinople arose in arms, burnt the quarters of the city where the strangers resided, massacred most of those who escaped the flames, and dragged through the dirt the head of the papal legate tied to a dog's tail. Four thousand Latins were sold for slaves to the Turks; some others escaped in their ships, and, in the course of their return to Italy, made the harmless provincials suffer for the crimes of the metropolis. The massacre of the Latins at Constantinople happened about six years before the third Crusade. But the providing materials for the luxury of a great city was so tempting to minds occupied in the pursuit of wealth, and the Italians were so much more industrious than the Greeks, that the Pisans and other people again became residents in Constantinople, and the fierce passions of the nations gradually gave way to sensuality and licentiousness. But the clergy were inexorable; and when Barbarossa was in the Grecian torritories, they preached, though without much success, the justice of destroying the heretics.

Note (D).—Page 43.

In a short time the king became convalescent; and, according to the romance of Richard Cœur de Lion, the first symptom of his recovery was a violent longing for pork. Of course it was difficult to procure swine's flesh in a Muselman country. But

An old knight, with Richard biding,
When he heard of that tiding,
That the kingis wants were swyche,
To the steward he spake privyliche.
"Our lord the king sore is sick, I wis,
"After pork he alonged is;
"Ye may none find to sell:
"No man be hardy him so to telle!
"If he did, he might die.
"Now behoves to done as I shall say,
"That he wete naught of that,
"Takes a Saracen young and fat;
"In haste let the thief be slain,
"Opened, and his skin off flayn;
"And sodden, full hastily,
"With powder and with spicery,
"And with saffron of good colour.
"When the king feels therof savour,
"Out of ague if he be went,
"He shall have thereto good talent,
"When he has a good taste,
"And eaten with a good repast,
"And supped of the *brewis** a sup
"Slept after and swet a drop,
"Thorough Godis help, and my counsail,
"Soon he shall be as fresh and hail."

The

* Broth.

The sooth to say, at wordes few,
Slain and sodden was the heathen shrew.
Before the king it was forth brought:
Quod his men, "Lord, we have pork sought;
"Eates and suppes of the brewis *soote**
"Thorough grace of God it shall be your boot."
Before king Richard carff a knight,
He ate faster than he carve might.
The king ate the flesh, and *gnew*† the bones,
And drank well after for the nonce.
And when he had eaten enough,
His folk hem turned away, and *lough*.‡
He lay still, and drew in his arm;
His chamberlain him wrapped warm.
He lay and slept, and swet a stound,
And became whole and sound.
King Richard clad him and arose,
And walked abouten in the close.

Sometime afterwards, in a dainty mood, the king desired that the swine's head should be dressed.

Quod the cook, "That head Ine have."
Then said the king, "So God me save,
"But I see the head of that swine,
"For sooth thou shalt lessen thine!"
The cook saw none other might be;
He fet the head, and let him see.
He fell on knees, and made a cry,
Lo here the head, my lord, mercy.
The *swarte vis*§ when the king seeth,
His black beard and white teeth
How his lippes grinned wide,
"What devil is this?" the king cried,

And

* Sweet. † Gnawed. ‡ Laughed. § Black face.

And gan to laugh as he were wode.
What! is Saracen's flesh thus good?
That, never erst, I nought wist!
By Gode's death, and his up-rist,
Shall we never die for default;
While we may, in any assault,
Slee Saracens, the flesh may take,
And seethen, and rosten, and do hem bake,
And gnawen her flesh to the bones!
Now I have it proved once,
For hunger eke I be wo,
I and my folk shall eat mo.

On the occasion of an entertainment which he gave to some Saracenian embassadors, he commanded his marshal to strike off the heads of an equal number of Muselman prisoners of high rank, and deliver them to the cook, with instructions to clear away the hair, and, after boiling them in a caldron, to distribute them on several platters, one to each guest, observing to fasten on the forehead of each the piece of parchment, expressing the name and family of the victim. A head was also to be brought for Richard, and he would eat thereof,

As it were a tender chick,
To see how the others will like.

Every thing took place according to order. The embassadors were shocked at the repast, and astonished at the king, who swallowed the morsels as fast as they could be supplied by the knight who carved them.

Every man then poked other;
They said, "This is the devil's brother,
That slays our men, and thus hem eats."

The table was then cleared, and covered again with a proper dinner. Richard then courteously relieved their fears respecting

respecting their own personal safety, apologized to them for what had passed, which he attributed entirely to his ignorance of their taste, and added,

King Richard shall warrant,
There is no flesh so nourissant
Unto an English man,
Partridge, plover, haron, ne swan,
Cow ne ox, sheep ne swine,
As the head of a Sarezyn.
There he is fat and thereto tender;
And my men be lean and slender.
While any Saracen quick be,
Livand now in this Syrie;
For meat will we nothing care,
Abouten fast we shall fare,
And every day we shall eat
All so many as we may get.
To England will we nought gon,
Till they be eaten every one.

According to Warton, there are three printed editions of this romance of Richard Cœur de Lion, one in 8vo. by Winken de Worde, in 1509; another by him in 4to. 1528, and a third by W. C. no date. Of the second, there is a copy in the Bodleian (c. 39, art. Selden), in which there is no account of the savage meal which Richard made of the Saracens, and the feast of the ambassadors. The circumstance of these omissions adds force to the opinion, that the tale of the crusade of Richard was altered in various ways by the lying minstrels, and that there is no perfect standard of this romance See Ellis's Specimens of Metrical Romances, vol. ii. p. 172. From Mr. Ellis's version I have extracted my account of the Saracenian pork story.

Note (E).—Page 50.

Vinesauf, iii. 19, iv. 2, 4, and 6. Benedict. 674. Bohadin, cap. 115, p. 183. The soldiers of Richard's crusade did not materially differ from their predecessors—et aurum et argentum multum invenerunt in visceribus eorum (Paganorum)—*et fel eorum usui medicinali servaverunt!* Hemingford (p. 531) states sixteen hundred as the number of prisoners destroyed by Richard, and Bohadin (cap. 115) estimates them at three thousand. Hoveden (p. 698) says, that five thousand captives were slain by the king and the duke of Burgundy. Vinesauf sets them down at two thousand seven hundred. He seems ashamed of his master's ferocity, and is obliged to hazard the supposition, that Richard killed the Muselmans out of his great zeal for the glory of Christianity, and his hatred of Islamism. Saladin did not forget this act of barbarity, and, in revenge, he slew all the Christians whom the chances of war threw into his hands.

Exercising the privilege of poetical exaggeration, the romance of Richard Cœur de Lion says, that Richard gave orders for the execution of sixty thousand captives.

They were led into the place full even.
There they heard angels of heaven;
They said, " Seigneurs, tuez, tuez,
" Spares hem nought, and beheadeth these!"
King Richard heard the angel's voice,
And thanked God and the holy cross.

The author of the romance, Mr. Ellis says, considering that murder, conducted on so grand a scale, at the expense of unbelievers, and expressly enjoined by angels, could not fail of communicating great pleasure to the reader, has here introduced the following episodical description of spring.

Merry is, in time of May,
When fowlis sing in her lay.

Floweres on apple-trees and perry;
Small fowles sing merry.
Ladies strew her bowers
With red roses and lilly flowers,
Great joy is in frith and lake;
Beast and bird plays with his mate;
The damiseles lead dance;
Knights play with shield and lance;
In justs and tournaments they ride;
Many a case hem betide!
Many chances and strokes hard!
So befell to king Richard.

Note (F).—Page 58,

During the siege of Acre, the duke of Austria took one of the enemy's towers, and placed his banner upon it. Richard, as supreme commander, was indignant at this assumption of superiority, and threw the flag into a ditch. The historical fact, of the haughty duke's refusal to work, is thus curiously mentioned in the romance of Richard Cœur de Lion.

"My father n'as mason ne carpenter;
And, though your walls should all to shake,
I shall never help hem to make."

The irascible monarch was incensed to the highest pitch of fury.

"The duke with his foot he smot,
Against the breast, God it wot,
That on a stone he him overthrew;
It was evil done, by St. Mathew."

He at the same time ordered him to depart instantly, with his vassals, from the Christian camp, threatening to break his standard, and throw it into the river; and while the duke retired,

retired, muttering projects of vengeance, which he afterwards too successfully executed, Richard continued to follow him with imprecations, exclaiming—

—— With voice full steep,
Home! shrew! coward! and sleep!
Come no more, in no wise,
Never oft in God's service."

Ellis's Specimens of Met. Rom. vol. ii. p. 263.

Note (G).—Page 61.

The murderers were taken and tortured. Bromton (col. 1243) says, nothing certain could be gained from them. Hoveden (p. 717) and Vinesauf (whom that excellent compiler Sanudo has followed) make them declare that they murdered Conrad in revenge for an injury which he had done their master. But Bohadin (c. 144) affirms that they said they were employed by Richard. Against the testimony of this Arabic writer must be placed that of another Arabic historian, namely, the continuator of Tabary, who says (according to father Berthereau, cited in Michaud, histoire des Croisades, II. 422) that the murderers, when under the hands of the executioner, would not confess the names of those that had employed them. The same author says that Saladin offered ten thousand pieces of gold to the old man of the mountain if he would assassinate the marquis of Tyre and the king of England; but that the prince of the assassins did not think proper to deliver Saladin entirely from the Franks, and therefore performed only a moiety of what was required of him. The generosity of Richard to Conrad is admitted in Sicard's Chronicle, cited in l'Art de vérifier les Dates, I. 449 and it seems that Conrad, with his dying breath, recommended his wife to surrender Tyre to Richard. There is great good sense in Holingshed's remark. He is the only witness who shall "speak to charac-

" ter."—" And verily it is most likely that king Richard " would have been loth to have communicated his purpose " unto such a wicked kind of Pagans as the assassins were, " if he had pretended any such matter; but rather would " have sought his revenge by some other means."

Note (H).—Page 64.

This history of the circumstances respecting the Christians giving up the attack on Jerusalem I have taken from Vinesauf, V. 54. VI. 1, 2, 7. Another class of writers have attributed the loss of the object of the Crusade to the selfishness or national feelings of the duke of Burgundy. Some have charged him with taking the bribes of Saladin, others make him refuse co-operation with Richard, lest Richard should have all the honour of the conquest of Jerusalem. It was true that the French were more numerous than the English; but as the commander was an Englishman, they would not receive due reward of fame: and it would be a disgrace on France, if it could be said that after Philip had retired, Jerusalem had been taken by Richard. M. Paris, 141. Bernardus, 811. Plagon, Cont. of Archb. of Tyre, 635. Sanutus, lib. 3. part 10. c. 6. Hoveden's story is, (p. 716) that Richard wished the duke of Burgundy and the French to swear that they would not depart till the conquest should be achieved: but they refused; answering that they would return to France agreeably to the commands of Philip. This general opinion of French and English writers it is difficult to contradict in all respects; on the other hand, Vinesauf is an author of the highest authority, on Richard's crusade, and his narrative is full and circumstantial. He mentions violent and alarming altercations between the duke and the king, and the receding of the former from Ascalon. These circumstances were the foundation of the popular story, which in its progress through the world assumed different

ferent shapes; wrong places were mentioned as the scene of action, and false conclusions drawn.

Note (I).—Page 76.

Poetry, particularly that of the Provençal bards, was patronised in the court of king Henry the second; for his queen, Eleanora, was a Troubadour by birth, and, as we have already seen, she did not disgrace her family by the prosaic virtues of prudence, chastity, &c. Richard cultivated the "gay science." Unluckily for the royal lute loving heroes of modern times, the stanzas which it is said he wrote on the eyes of gentle ladies have not descended to us. One of his other poems seems to have been written in prison. It has often been versified, but in every thing that constitutes merit the translation from the elegant pen of Mr. Ellis is the best.

If captive wight attempt the tuneful strain,
His voice, belike, full dolefully will sound;
Yet, to the sad, 'tis comfort to complain.
Friends have I store; and promises abound;
Shame on the niggards! Since, these winter's twain
Unransom'd, still I bear a tyrant's chain.

Full well they know, my lords and nobles all,
Of England, Normandy, Guienne, Poictou,
Ne'er did I slight my poorest vassal's call,
But all, whom wealth could buy, from chains withdrew.
Not in reproach I speak, nor idly vain,
But I alone unpitied bear the chain.

My fate will shew, "the dungeon and the grave
"Alike repel our kindred and our friends."
Here am I left their paltry gold to save!
Sad fate is mine; but worse their crime attends.
Their lord will die; their conscience shall remain,
And tell how long I wore this galling chain.

No wonder though my heart with grief boil o'er,
When he, my perjur'd lord, invades my lands;
Forgets he then the oaths he lately swore,
When both, in treaty, join'd our plighted hands?
Else, sure I ween, I should not long remain,
Unpitied here to wear a tyrant's chain.

To those my friends, long lov'd, and ever dear,
To gentle Chaïle, and kind Persarain,
Go forth my song, and say, whate'er they hear,
To them my heart was never false or vain!
Should they rebel—but no; their souls disdain
With added weight to load a captive's chain.

Know then the youths of Anjou and Touraine,
Those lusty bachelors, those airy lords,
That these vile walls their captive king restrain?
Sure they in aire will draw their loyal swords!
Alas! nor faith, nor valour, now remain;
Sighs are but wind, and I must bear my chain.

Note (K) —Page 77.

The chaplain Anselm is our chief guide for the history of the circumstances which attended the seizure of Richard. His narrative is contained in M. Paris, 143—145: and in the Chronicle of Oxenedes in Brit. Mus. Cotton. MSS. Nero D. 2. p. 221. One of these writers must have copied from the other, or both copied from one original, for their statements are almost literally the same. See too Hoveden, 717, 721, 723. The plain matter of fact story of Richard's adventures in Germany is quite as interesting, I think, as the fable, which is as follows. A whole year elapsed before the English knew where their monarch was confined. Blondell de Nesle, Richard's favourite French minstrel, resolved to find out his lord; and after travelling many days without success, at last came to a castle where Richard

Richard was detained. Here he found that the castle belonged to the duke of Austria, and that a king was there imprisoned. Suspecting that the prisoner was his master, he found means to place himself directly before the window of the chamber where the king was kept; and in this situation began to sing a French chanson which Richard and Blondell had formerly written together. When the king heard the song he knew it was Blondell who sung it; and when Blondell paused after the first half of the song, the king began the other half and completed it. Blondell then returned to England, acquainted the people with his discovery, and Richard was in due time liberated. Fauchet, Recueil de l'Origine de la Langue Françoise, p. 92. Warton's History of English Poetry, vol. 1. p. 113. note.

CHANSON.

Blondel.—Domna vostra beautas
Elas bellas faisos
Els bels oils amoros,
Els gens cors ben taillats
Dons sieu empresenats
De vostra amor que mi liu.

Richard.—Si bel trop affansia
Ja dei vos non portrai
Que major honorai
Sol en votre deman
Que santra des beisan
So cau de vos volrai.

IMITATED.

B.—Your beauty, lady fair,
None views without delight;
But still so cold an air
No passion can excite.
Yet this I patient see,
While all are shunn'd like me,

R.—No nymph my heart can wound,
If favours she divide,
And smile on all around,
Unwilling to decide:
I'd rather hatred bear
Than love with others share.

Burney's History of Music, vol. 2. p. 236

In the fourth part of the Mirror for Magistrates, Richard Cœur de Lion thus relates his events.

Backe, backe to England, with a grieved heart,
Leaving these blest affairs of th' holy one
Of Israel, we must with grief depart:
Philip my foe excites my brother John,
In my long absence to aspire the throne:
My England's rocky bounds ring with alarms
Of factious traitors, John is up in arms.

Warn'd by report, my course I did direct
For England's bounds: but here thy muse must know
My father's curse began to take effect:
Heav'n seem'd to frowne, the sea became my foe,
And earth conspir'd to work my greater woe:
By seas' dark waves and froward winds from heav'n,
Unto my foes at shore I up was given.

By tempest driven, from danger to be free,
I made hard shipwracke on the Istrian strand,
Depriv'd of all my train, excepting three,
Enforc'd I was to make my way by land
Through Austria, to Vienna, that doth stand
Upon Danubius' banks, that dukedom's seat,
The bulwark now 'gainst Turkish Mahumet.

There being descri'd unto mine ancient foe
The Austrian duke I was given up for prey:
Who like himself, himself to me did show,

Bearing

Bearing in mind the malice of that day,
When I at Acon, for his proud assay
In taking for his lodging in the towne
The palace up, I cast his ensigns down.

Yet with this duke not long was my abode;
For when report of my captivity
Was newly set on wing, and flown abroad,
Henry, then emperor of Germany,
Forgetful of imperial royalty,
Of that false duke that had me fast in hold,
Greedy of prey, did purchase me for gold.

Upon that man, whom fortune doth begin
To leave forlorn, who will not seem to frown?
When he is sunken up unto the chin
In waves of sad distresse, all thrust him downe,
And suffer him in wretchednesse to drowne;
They that did envy my great state before,
Did wish such state might nere betide me more.

Ambitious John, and Philip that false king
Taking the time to perfect their intent,
To Henry did a golden message wing,
In hope if he to set me free was bent,
Such purpose with corruption to prevent.
Which when with terror stricken I did heare,
No hope I had, no comfort did appeare.

Ignoble age, branded with this foule crime,
This blemish thou canst never wipe away;
When true record shall tell to future time,
How most unjust the Christian did repay
His backe returne that did through death assay,
'Gainst paganism to advance the Christian name,
Even children shall upbraid thee with the same.

In tempest of this trouble long being tost,
Sore griev'd in mind for my captivity,

At

At length compounding with my greedy host,
Th' emperor Henry, hight of Germany,
With ransom to redeem my liberty,
An hundred thousand pounds I did agree
To give to him before I could be free.

Note (L).—Page 78.

Richard's speech is not given by any original writer. M. Paris (145,) says that the emperor, as well as the other members of the diet, was convinced of Plantagenet's innocence, and that he treated him thenceforth with humanity. The price of the ransom was then the only question. But it is difficult to understand by what right they could detain him, if his innocence were acknowledged. Bromton tells us, that although Richard had proved that he had not participated in Conrad's murder, yet that for the perfect conviction of the potentates, he sent to the old man of the mountain for a justification. A letter from the chief of the assassins to the duke of Austria is accordingly produced, completely exculpating Richard, and declaring that Conrad was killed by order of the old man, in consequence of the marquis having robbed and murdered an assassin. Another letter is also produced, addressed to all the princes and people of Christendom; in which, as in the former one, the chief of the assassins assumes to himself all the honour of the murder. There is very little difficulty in proving that these letters were forgeries. The very superscriptions are contrary to the oriental mode. "Limpoldo duci Austriæ "Vetus de Monte salutem."—"Vetus de Monte Principi-"bus Europæ et omni populo Christiano salutem." The phrase, Vetus de Monte, is a mere Latin translation of the name by which the chief of the assassins was known in Europe. His appellation in Syria was very different, and, consequently, the letters were not translated from an Arabic original.

original. The over anxiety expressed in the letters for the exculpation of Richard, shews that they were of European manufacture. "Et bene dicimus vobis in veritate; quod "dominus Ricardus rex, Angliæ in hac Marchisi morte "nullam culpam habuit. Et qui propter hoc domino regi "Angliæ malum fecerunt injuste fecerunt et sine causa. "Sciatis pro certo quod nullum hominem hujus mundi pro "mercede aliqua vel pecunia occidimus, nisi prius malum "nobis fecerit." It is difficult to suppose that this chief would run the risk of the vengeance of the Christian powers from a mere love of justice, and from a wish to exculpate a monarch whom he neither knew nor regarded. The circular letter is without date. The other letter is dated in the middle of September. But the common European division of time was unknown to the Asiatics, and particularly to the savage ignorant assassins. The writer of the letter in Diceto thought to give it probability by dating it according to the year of the Greeks. With the oriental modes he was totally unacquainted. He therefore dates the letter in the year 1505 from Alexander. This year of the Selucidæ corresponds with the year of Christ 1193. The copyist of the letter for Bromton did not understand this mode of computing time; and, accordingly, he dates his letter, "anno ab Alexandro papa quinto." A Muhammedan prince dating his letters according to pontificates, is somewhat strange; and we may pardon his ignorance of what was passing at Rome. Pope Alexander died 1181. Bromton, Diceto, Hemingford, and Trivet, insert one or both of these letters. But those respectable historians, Matthew Paris and Roger Hoveden, have not suffered them to corrupt their works.

Note (M).—Page 83.

Saladin's humility and generosity were the principal subjects of praise among the people of the west; and hence the stories

stories became believed, that he distributed money in charity among the poor of every religious denomination, and that a little while before his death he ordered his standard-bearer, when his funeral should take place, to carry his winding sheet, suspended from a lance, through Damascus, and proclaim, "Behold all that Saladin, the great conqueror "of the east, carries with him to the grave." Dante mentions Saladin, and gives him a place in the division of the lower regions occupied by the greatest and wisest pagan philosophers and poets. Dell' Inferno, canto iv. 129.

The following are pleasing instances of Saladin's self-command and love of justice. "As Bohadin, the historian, "was one day exercising, at Jerusalem, his office of judge, "a decent old merchant tendered him a bill or libel of "complaint, which he insisted upon having opened. 'Who "'(says Bohadin,) is your adversary?' 'My adversary,' "replies the merchant, 'is the sultan himself; but this is "'the seat of justice; and we have heard that you (apply-"'ing to Bohadin,) are not governed by regard to persons.' "Bohadin told him his cause could not be decided without "his adversary being first apprized. The sultan, accord-"ingly, was informed of the affair; he submitted to appear; "produced his witnesses, and, having justly defended him-"self, gained the cause. Yet so little did he resent this "treatment, that he dismissed his antagonist with a rich "garment and a donation."—"At another time Saladin "was in company with his intimate friends, enjoying their "conversation apart, the crowd being dismissed, when a "slave of some rank brought him a petition in behalf of "some person oppressed. The sultan said that he was "then fatigued, and wished the matter, whatever it was, "might for a time be deferred. The other did not attend "to what was desired, but, on the contrary, almost thrust "the petition into the sultan's face. The sultan on this,

"opening

" opening and reading it once, declared he thought the 7
" petitioner's cause a good one. ' Let then our sovereign
" ' lord,' says the other, ' sign it.' ' There is no inkstand,'
" says the sultan, (who, being at that time seated at the
" door of his tent, rendered it impossible for any one to
" enter).—' You have one,' replies the petitioner, ' in the
" ' inner part of your tent;' (which meant, as the writer
" well observes, little less than bidding the prince go and
" bring it himself). The sultan, looking back and seeing
" the inkstand behind him, cries out, ' God help me! the
" ' man says true;' and immediately reached back for it,
" and signed the instrument." Bohadin's Life of Saladin, p. 22, p. 10, as translated by Mr. Harris, Philological Inquiries, chap. 6.

Note (N).—Page 94.

For the fourth crusade, that of the German lords, our authorities, with the exception of Arnold of Lubeck, were writers whom I have already characterized, and have often quoted. Our materials for the fifth crusade, though few, are valuable. L'Histoire de la Prise de Constantinople par les Francais et les Venetiens, écrite par Geoffry de Villehardouin, maréchal de Champagne, fol. edit. Du Cange. The author was an eye-witness, and his testimony is given with simplicity and tolerable candour. Du Cange's notes are as valuable as his notes on the Alexiad. Another observer of the wonderful scenes which were passing on the world was Nicetas. After the last siege of Constantinople in 1204, this Grecian retired to Nice, and wrote the history of his country from the year 1118 to 1218. Of this lachrymal annalist I have read, and shall refer to Wolf's edition, Basil, 1557. The life of Pope Innocent III. by a contemporaneous, but anonymous author. It is prefixed to Baluzius's edition of the letters of his Holiness, and is inserted by Muratori in the third volume of his great collection of Italian

Italian historians, p. 486, &c. Some letters or public dispatches from Baldwin, count of Flanders, to the Pope, are included in this life, and are of great value. We have no Venetian eye-witnesses, but I have gathered some facts both from the Chronicle of Andrew Dandalo, in the twelfth volume of Muratori, and the work of Paolo Ramusio, De Bello Constantinopolitano et Imperatoribus Comnenis per Gallos et Venetis restitutis. Venet. fol. 1635. The author was secretary to the council of ten, and was ordered by that assembly to write the history of the eventful war between Venice and Greece. Villehardouin's work was his foundation, but the archives of the republic enabled him to give a new air and colour to many facts. The work of Gunther, on the subject of the fifth crusade, has been frequently referred to by other writers; but I have not found in his short narrative many things that are not better treated in Villehardouin. The Jesuit Doutreman's history, entitled Constantinopolis Belgica, has not fallen into my hands. I do not regret it, for I am not prejudiced in favour of the biographer of Peter, and I learn from Du Cange, that the Jesuit had not seen the work of Ramusio, or the letters to Pope Innocent III.

Note (Q).—Page 206.

The count of Champagne published the crusade in a chanson. He was as serious about the matter as if he had been writing a sermon, for he says,

Diex se laissa per nos en crois pener,
Et nous dira au jour, où tuit venront,
Vos, qui ma crois m'aidates à porter,
Vos en ciez la, où li angele sont,
La me verrez, et ma mere Marie;

Et

Et vos, par qui je n'ai jamais aie
Descendez tuit en infer le profond.

Canson 55. Poesies du Roi de Navarre, 2 vol. 12mo. Paris, 1742.

Thibaud, however, was more of a gallant than a religious man. Just before embarkation at Marseilles, he consoles himself by writing a song, on leaving the queen of France or some imaginary mistress, and puts himself under the protection of the Virgin.

Dame des Ciex, grans roine poissanz,
Au grant besoig me soiez secarranz,
De vos amer puisse avoir droite flame
Quand Dame perc,* Dame me soit aidanz.

I would give more specimens of the poetry of this count of Champagne, were I not afraid that my readers recollect the expression of Bossuet, that the count of Champagne made verses which he was fool enough to publish.

Note (P).—Page 220.

THE CRUSADERS.

CRUSADER.

Thou seest, my friend, of good and ill
To reason, and their bounds to know,
To us is dealt by sovereign will,
Alone of creatures here below.
And hence, so we employ our pains
To do the works which God ordains,
For us his bounty hath prepar'd,
Of peerless price, a sure reward.
Lo, now the fruitful hour at hand!
To thee the precious boon is given;
For Paynims waste the holy land,
And spoil the heritage of heaven.

Shall

* Je pars, je me sépare. Chanson 56.

Shall we such faithless works behold,
With craven courage slack and cold?
How else, but to the giver's praise,
May we devote our wealth and days?

NON-CRUSADER.

I read thee right—thou holdest good,
To this same land I straight should hie,
And win it back with mickle blood,
Nor gain one foot of soil thereby.
While here dejected and forlorn,
My wife and babes are left to mourn;
My goodly mansion rudely marr'd,
All trusted to my dogs to guard.
But I, fair comrade, well I wot,
An ancient saw, of pregnant wit,
Doth bid us, "Keep what we have got;"
And troth I mean to follow it.
I cannot learn what part 'tis read,
That Christian folk shall so be fed;
Who soweth thus, I shrewdly guess,
Shall gather naught but emptiness.

CRUSADER.

Forth from thy groaning mother's womb,
Thou, naked helpless child, wast brought;
You see, how soon thou art become
Stout, lusty, lacking now for naught.
Then sure, if wealth for heaven we lose,
Heaven, hundred fold, that wealth renews;
But Paradise may never bless
The wretch who lives in idleness.

NON-CRUSADER.

Howbeit, my friend, of folk that toil,
And sweat almost their dear heart's blood;

And

And all their days keep mighty coil,
To keep some store of this world's good:
Of such, I say, full oft from home,
On penance sent to holy Rome,
Asturia, or I wot not where,
Nor what befalls the caitiffs there.
I've seen a band of gallants brave,
To France returning all forlorn:
Without or waiting wench or knave,
And naked, nigh, as they were born.
Now sure, it needs not cross the seas,
And play such losing games as these;
And bow one's flesh to servitude,
All for one's soul's immortal good!

I say, good brother, so you hold
Alone we purchase heavenly bliss:
For this a man must waste his gold,
And pass the boundless seas for this.
Now I maintain 'tis far more sage,
In peace to hold one's heritage;
And there that Paradise obtain,
For which thou needs wilt cross the main.

CRUSADER.

Nay, now thy speech so lewdly sounds,
I scarce may sober answer deign:
Thou ween'st, forsooth, with hawks and hounds
To save thy soul, sans fleshly pain:
How much of martyr's blood has flow'd
To win those seats of heaven's abode?
How many, this world's joys foregone,
And buried quick, in cloisters moan?

NON-CRUSADER.

Sire, by my fay, thou preachest well!
Thy words are brave; 'twere best thou go

To yon sequester'd silent cell,
And teach its lordly abbot so!
Those fattening deans would gladly hear;
Those prelates needs must lend an ear;
Such men, be sure, heaven's laws fulfil,
Devoted to their Maker's will!
On these his plenteous gifts he showers,
While we are told his wars to wage:
Their rents flow in, they dwell in bowers,
Nor, slumbering, note the tempest's rage.
Good faith, Sir, if the road to heaven
Be made so passing smooth and even,
The priest who changeth, wit must lack,
He ne'er shall find a readier track.

Way's Fabliaux, vol. ii. p. 227, 230, edit. 1796.

Note (Q).—Page 235.

M. Paris, 684. The English were alluded to by the count of Artois. The reason for the supposition that they belonged to the caudatory part of mankind, it is difficult to determine. Every one knows that there was a common story in old times, that some of our ancestors, in consequence of having treated disrespectfully St. Augustine the missionary, incurred the punishment of wearing tails; and that the curse was hereditary. The murder of Thomas à Becket was another reason why our forefathers became caudati. Du Cange (Alexiad, book iv. p. 202. n.) thinks that an allusion is here made to their custom of wearing shoes with long extended points, sustained by chains of gold and silver, or silken strings, which were tied to the knee. So old a writer as Malmsbury mentions this foppery. "The "ecclesiastics," says Hume, "took exception at this orna- "ment, which, they said, was an attempt to belie the Scrip- "ture, where it is affirmed, that no man can add a cubit to "his

" his stature; and they declaimed against it with great ve-
" hemence; nay, assembled some synods, who absolutely
" condemned it. But, such are the strange contradictions
" in human nature! though the clergy, at that time, could
" overturn thrones, and had authority to send above a mil-
" lion of men on *their* errand to the deserts of Asia, they
" could never prevail against these long pointed shoes."
Hume, History of England, vol. i. p. 302. edit. 8vo, 1783.
An act of parliament in the third year of the reign of Edward IV. and a subsequent royal proclamation, prohibited these chains and strings, and declared that the shoes should not extend two inches beyond the foot, under the penalty of twenty shillings. The fashion then ran into a contrary extreme; and, in queen Mary's days, a prohibition was made of shoes toes more than six inches square. But it is difficult to agree with Du Cange, that the word " caudati" is used in the sense he contends for by the count d'Artois. Long pointed shoes were in fashion in France as well as in England; and in both countries clerical admonition stayed the usual capriciousness of fashion. In a strange mixture of spiritual and trifling matters, a council held at Sens, about half a century after the proclamation of Edward IV., condemned Luther and pointed shoes. Du Cange, who, in the course of his inquisitive and learned researches, always sweeps every thing both far and near to his subject, shews that Tertullian and St. Augustine declaimed against long and pointed shoes. Cicero (de Natura Deorum, i. 29.) mentions the calcei *repandi* of Juno, and Ernesti brings instances of coins which prove the fact.

Note (R).—Page 279.

The excessive simplicity of the monument of Edward I. has been supposed to have proceeded from the circumstance that his body was frequently re-embalmed: and such a

tomb was favourable to the operation. The king's appointment was never executed. "The monkish Chronicles," says Warton, "impute the crime of withholding so pious a legacy to the advice of the king of France, whose daughter Isabel was married to the succeeding king. But it is more probable that Edward II. and his profligate minion, Piers Gaveston, dissipated the money in their luxurious and expensive pleasures." Warton, History of English Poetry, vol. i. p. 106—108. In an elegy made on the death of Edward I. the writer makes Edward say,

"Iche biqueth myn hirte aryht,
"That hit be write at mi devys,
"Over the sea that Hue* be diht,
"With fourscore knyghtes al of pris,
"In werre that buen war'aut wys,
"Agein the hethene for to fyhte,
"To wynne the croize that low bys,
"Myself ycholde gef thet y myhte."

The elegist thus proceeds,

Kyng of France! thou hevedust sunne,†
That thou the counsail woldest fonde,
To latte‡ the wille of kyng Edward,
To wend to the holi londe;
Thet our kynge hede take on honde,
All Engeland to zeme§ and wysse,‖
To wenden in to the holi londe;
To wynnen us heveriche blisse.
The messager to the Pope com
And seyede that our kynge was dede,
Ys owne hond the lettre he nom,**
Y wis his herte wes ful gret;

The

* One of his officers. † *Sin.* ‡ *Let*, hinder
§ Protect. ‖ Govern. ** Took.

The Pope himself the lettre redde,
And spec a word of grét honour.
" Alas," he seid, " is Edward ded?
" Of Cristendome he ber the flour."

The Pope is to chaumbré wende,
For dole ne mihte he spake na more;
Ant after cardinales he sende
That muche couthen of Cristes lore.
Both the lasse* ant eke the more
Bed hem both red ant synge;
Great deol me† myhte se thore,‡
Many mon is honde wringe.

The Pope of Peyters stod at is masse
With ful gret solempnete
Ther me conş the soule blisse;
" Kyng Edward, honoured thou be;
God love thy sone come after the,
Bringe to ende that thou hast bygonne,
The holy crois ymade of tre
So fain thou woldest hit have ywonne.

" Jerusalem, thou hast ilore
The floure of all chivalrie,
Now kyng Edward liveth na more,
Alas, that he yet shulde deye!
He wolde ha rered up full heyge
Our banners that bulth broht to grounde;
Wel longe we may clepe‖ and crie,
Er we such a kyng have y founde."

It is said that Robert Bruce, in his dying moments, exclaimed that he had formerly made a vow that, if his wars should end favourably, he would go and fight the enemies of

* Less. † Men. ‡ There.
§ Began. ‖ Call.

of Jesus Christ. But as his life had been spent in contests with England, he could not accomplish what he wished, and he would send his heart in the stead of his body to fulfil his vow. Lord James Douglas then promised upon his knighthood to bear the heart to the holy sepulchre, proclaiming at every principal place on his journey that he bore the heart of king Robert of Scotland. Froissart, vol. 1. p. 48, &c. The king died; his friend embalmed his remains, put the heart into a silver casket, and commenced his journey. He went into Spain, and was killed fighting with the infidels. The issue is thus told by Barbour,

Sum off the lord Dowglas' men,
That thair lord dede has fundyn there,
Yeid weill ner woud for dule and wa,
Lang quhill our hym thai sorowit swa,
And syne with gret dule hame hym bar:
The king's hart half thai fundyn thar,
And that hame with thaim haff thai tane.

The Bruce, vol. 3. p. 174.
Pinkerton's Edition.

The heart of Bruce was deposited at Melros.

Note (S).—Page 304.

Parmi les nombreuses recherches qu'on a faites de nos jours, pour découvrir si les Templiers avaient un secret et quel était ce secret, il a été présenté le système que les Templiers avaient des opinions Gnostico-Manichéennes et que l'idole qu'on les accusait d'adorer était une figure BAFFOMETIQUE, mot difficile ou peut-être impossible à expliquer.

Une observation très simple suffira pour renverser ce système et réfuter l'érudition dont on a tâché de l'appuyer.

Dans la déposition de deux témoins entendus à Carcassonne, qui parlent de FIGURA BAFFOMETI, il est évident que

que c'est par une faute d'orthographie ou de prononciation que ce mot est ainsi écrit, au lieu de *Mahometi*, soit qu'alors dans les provinces du midi, on prononçât ainsi le nom de Mahomet, soit que le copiste ait écrit par erreur *Baffometi*, comme il a écrit en même temps *asorare* pour *adorare*; et ce qui doit ne laisser aucun doute à cet égard, c'est que le second témoin prétend qu'on lui fit prononcer Y ALLA, mot des Sarrazins, dit-il, qui signifie Dieu.

Enfin, on restera convaincu que les inquisiteurs ont voulu faire avouer aux témoins que les Templiers rendaient un culte à Mahomet, et que ce mot ne s'applique qu'à Mahomet, si l'on se souvient que l'un des témoins entendus à Florence, prétend qu'en lui montrant l'idole, on lui disait; "Voici votre Dieu et votre "Mahomet." ECCE DEUS, VESTER ET VESTER MAHUMET.

Raynouard, p. 301. Appendix.

Note (T).—Page 341.

Some of the best witnesses for the history of the middle ages affirm, that, seduced by the preaching of fanatics, the children of France and Germany, about the year 1213, thought themselves authorized by Heaven to attempt the rescue of the sepulchre, and ran about the country, crying, "Lord Jesus Christ, restore thy cross to us." Boys and girls stole from their homes, "no bolts, no bars, no fear of "fathers or love of mothers, could hold them back," and the number of youthful converts was thirty thousand. They were organized by some fanatical wretches, one of whom was taken and hanged at Cologne. The children drove down France, crossed the Alps, and those who survived thirst, hunger, and heat, presented themselves at the gates of the sea ports of Italy and the south of France. Many were driven back to their homes; but seven large ships full of them went from Marseilles; two of the vessels were wrecked

on

on the isle of St. Peter, the rest of the ships went to Bugia and Alexandria, and the masters sold the children to slavery. These singular events are mentioned by four contemporary writers. 1. Alberic, monk of Trois Fontaines, in his Chronicle, p. 459, edit. Leibnitz. 2. Godfrey of St. Pantaleon, in his Annals, p. 381, in the first vol. of Freher, Rer. Germ. Scrip. edit. Struve. The editor cites in his margin a Belgic chronicle as a testimony, which I have not seen. 3. Sicard, bishop of Cremona, in Muratori, Rer. Ital. Scrip. vii. p. 623. 4. M. Paris, p. 204. Roger Bacon, who flourished in the middle of the thirteenth century, thus speaks of the crusade of children. "Forsan vidistis aut audistis pro certo quod pueri de regno Franciæ semel occurrebant in infinita multitudine post quondam malignum hominem, ita quod nec a patribus, nec a matribus, nec amicis poterant detineri, et positi sunt in navibus et Saracenis redditi, et non sunt adhuc 64 anni. Opus Majus, p. 253. Honest Fuller says, "this crusade was done by the instinct of the devil, who, as it were, desired a cordial of children's blood, to comfort his weak stomach, long cloyed with murdering of men." History of the Holy War, book iii. chap. xxiv.

In illustration of the foregoing History the following Genealogical Tables are annexed.

1. The Latin Kings of Jerusalem.
2. Princes of Antioch.
3. Counts of Tripoli.
4. Counts of Edessa.

No. I.

[End of Vol. II.]

LATIN KINGS OF JERUSALEM.

Eustace, count of Boulogne—Ida, daughter of Godfrey le Barbu, of Lorraine.

1st king, Godfrey of Bouillon. †1100.

2. Baldwin. †1118.

3. Baldwin du Bourg, a relation of Godfrey—Morfia, an Armenian. †1131.

Melesinda, married Fulk, count of Anjou (father of Geoffry, the head of the English Plantagenets), fourth king, who died, 1144.

5. Baldwin III. † 1162.

6. Almeric. † 1173.

Wives.

Agnes de Courtenay.

Mary, daughter of Sabastocrator Isaac Comnenus.

7. Baldwin IV.—Theodora, great-grand-daughter of emperor Alexius I. † 1185.

Isabella, married to, 1. H… Montferrat, 3. Henry, c… 4. Almeric of Lusignan,

Conrad, a lord of … king, † 1197; and

Sybilla, married 1. Marquis of Montferrat, and, 2. Guy de Lusignan, ninth king, who abdicated 1192.

2. Mary—John de Brienne, 13th king, who abdicated.

3. Alice—Hugh, king of Cyprus.

4. Melesinda.—Boh… Antioch.

Baldwin V. issue by first marriage, and eighth king, † 1186.

Violante.—Frederick II. 14th king. † 1250

Hugh the Great, lineal descendant of Hugh and Alice, drowned king of Jerusalem at Tyre, 24th September 1269.

No. II.

[*End of Vol. II.*]

PRINCES OF ANTIOCH, 1098—1187, AND PRINCES OF ANTIOCH AND TRIPOLI, 1187—$\frac{1268}{1288}$.

I. Bohemond, prince of Antioch, son of Robert Guiscard, duke of Apulia, ——Constantia, daughter of Philip I, king of France. † 1111.

II. Bohemond, Alice, daughter of Baldwin II, king of Jerusalem.

Constantia, married 1. Raymond of Poitiers.—III. Prince of Antioch. † 1149. 2. Reginald of Chatillion.—IV. Prince of Antioch. † 1163.

1. V. Bohemond III, wives contemporary, not successive: 1. Orgueillouse of Harenc. 2. Irene, niece of Emperor Manuel. 3. Sibilla. † 1201.

1. Maria—Emperor Manuel Comnenus.

1. Raymond, godson of Raymond of Tripoli, and himself Count of Tripoli, died before his father. —Alice, daughter of Rupin of Armenia. † 1200.

1. VI. Bohemond IV, prince of Antioch, and Count of Tripoli, by usurpation 1. Plaisance, daughter of Lord Gibelet.—2. Melesinda, daughter of Almeric king of Cyprus, and of Isabel, Queen of Jerusalem. † 1233.

Rupin—Heloise, daughter of Almeric, king of Cyprus. † 1222.

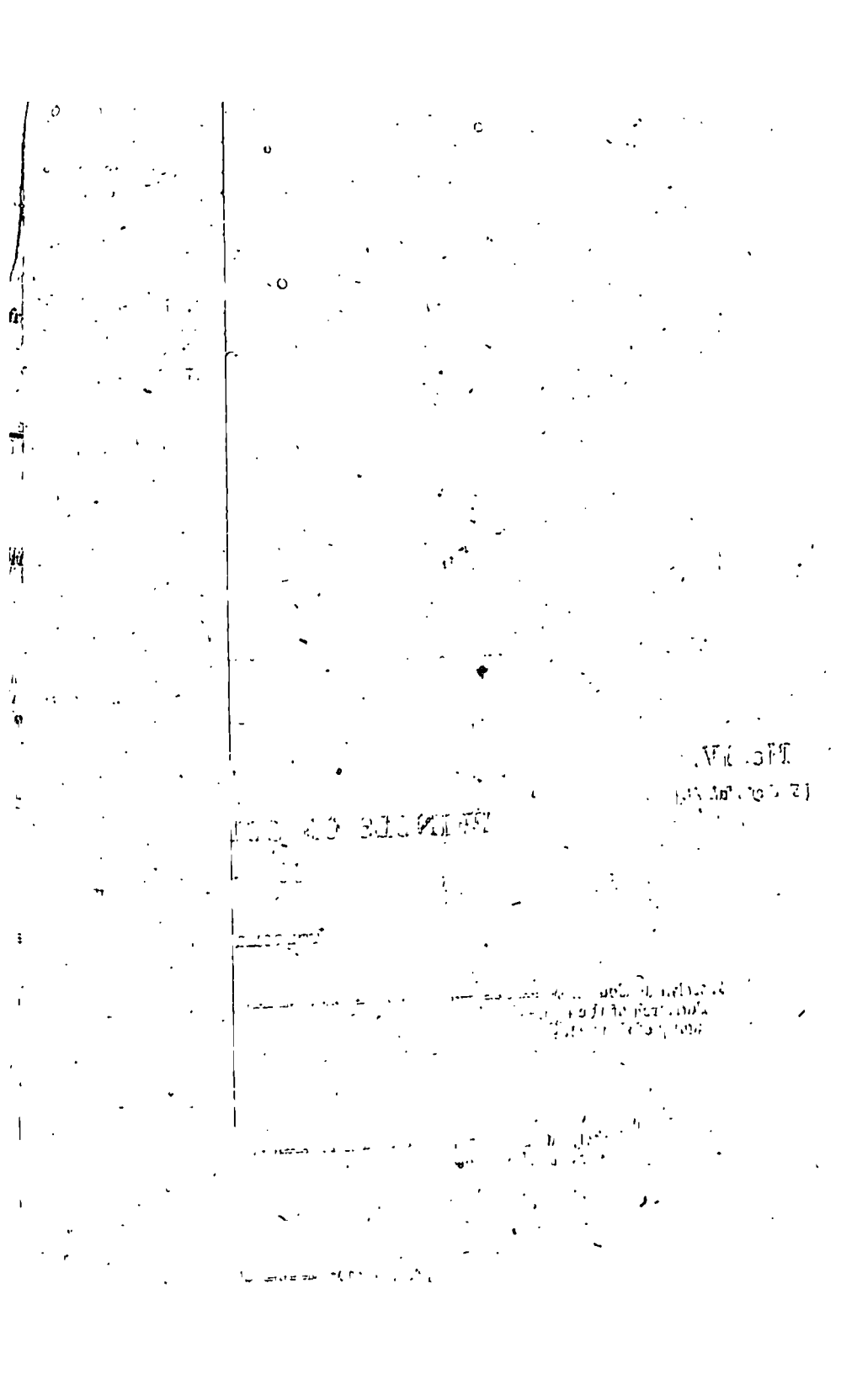
1. VII. Bohemond V.—Lucy, daughter of Count Pol. of Rome. † 1251.

2. Mary.

Two daughters. Mary.—Lord of Tyre and Eschive.

VIII. Bohemond VI.—Sibilla, daughter of Haiton, king of Armenia. † 1275. In 1268, Antioch was taken.

Bohemond VII. † 1287. Tripoli was taken in 1288.



No. III.

[*End of Vol. II.*]

COUNTS OF TRIPOLI,

From 1109 *to the Junction of the County with the Principality of Antioch.*

I. Bertrand, son of Raymond, count of Tholouse.—Alice, daughter of Eudes I. duke of Burgundy. † 1112.

II. Pontius.—Cecilia, daughter of king Philip I. of France, and widow of Tancred. † 1137.

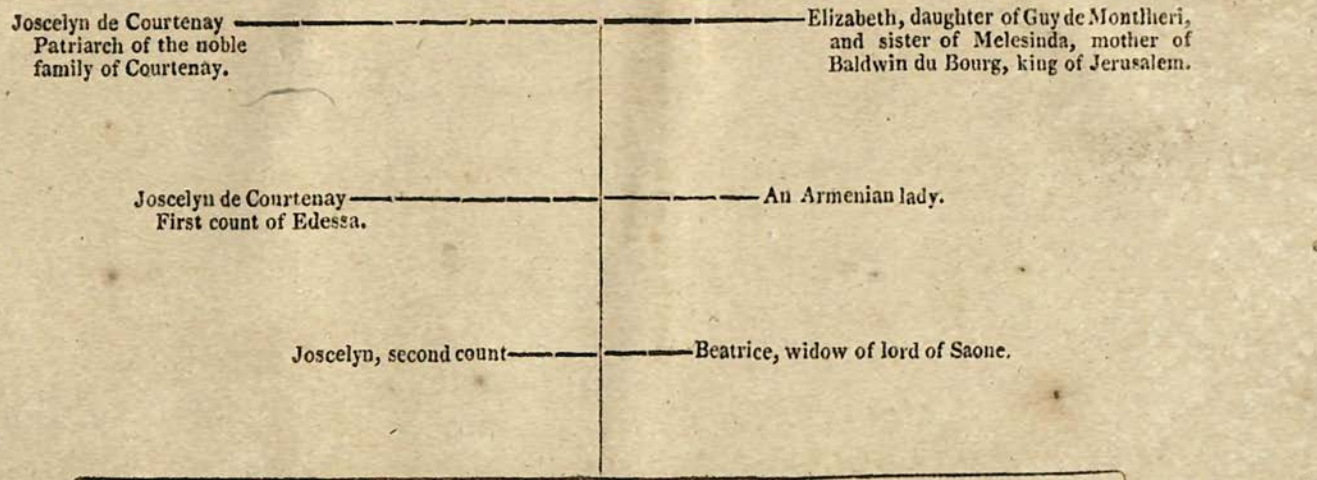
III. Raymond I.—Hodierna, daughter of Baldwin II. king of Jerusalem. † 1151.

IV. Raymond II.—Eschive, Lady of Tiberias. No issue. Gave Tripoli to his cousin and godson Raymond, son of Bohemond, fifth prince of Antioch. † 1187.

End of A. III.

PRINCES OR COUNTS OF EDESSA.

1097—1151.


Joscelyn de Courtenay
Patriarch of the noble family of Courtenay.
Elizabeth, daughter of Guy de Montlheri, and sister of Melesinda, mother of Baldwin du Bourg, king of Jerusalem.
Joscelyn de Courtenay
First count of Edessa.
An Armenian lady.
Joscelyn, second count
Beatrice, widow of lord of Saone.
Joscelyn, third and last count of Edessa.
Married Agnes, dame of Montreal.
No male issue.
Agnes, wife of, 1. Almeric, king of Jerusalem. 2. Hugh of Ibelin.

THE END.

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